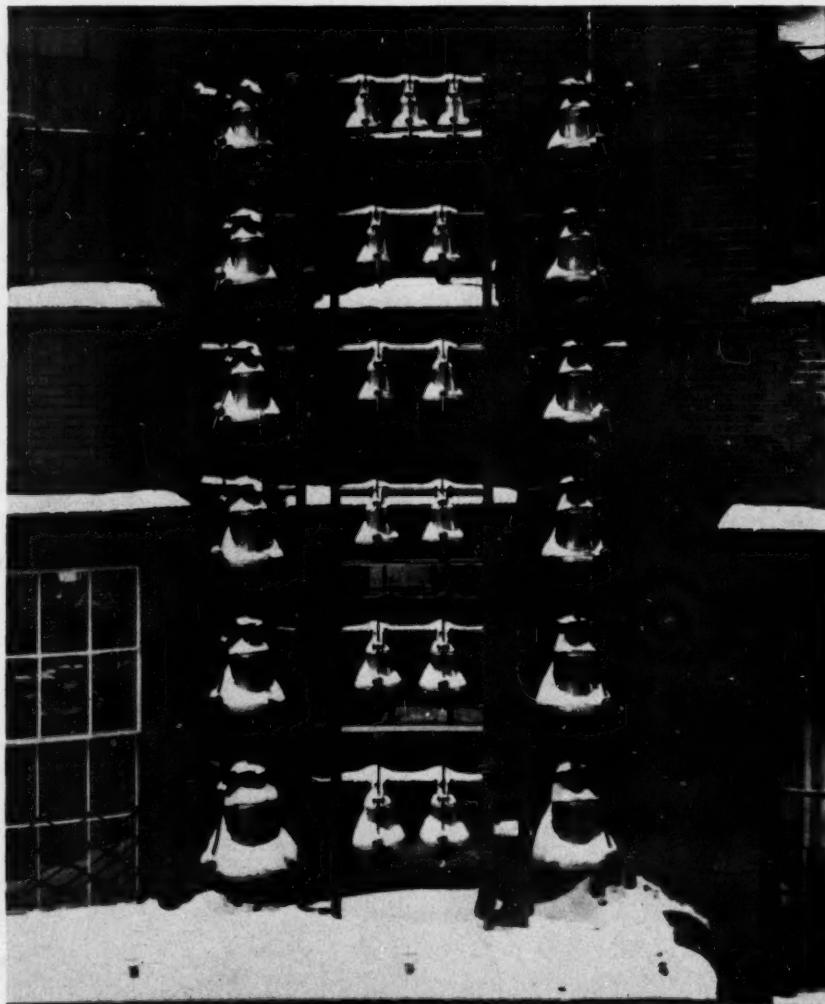


A Christmas Issue

CHURCH MANAGEMENT



CHRISTMAS BELLS IN BOSTON

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November, 1953

• Volume XXX •

Number 2

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOVEMBER, 1953

	Page
SEASONAL	
An Outdoor Presentation for Christmas—Norman L. Hersey.....	13
Let Us Give Thanks.....	14
A Shepherd Remembers—John C. Updegraff.....	13
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night—H. Augustine Smith.....	22
Is Not This Joseph's Son?—John W. McKelvey.....	34
The Christmas Vocation.....	36
Deck the Halls Party—Marion C. H. Ebersole.....	38
Getting Advent Into the Homes.....	38
New Prince, New Pomp—Robert Southwell.....	39
A Christmas Prayer—Herbert H. Hines.....	39
A Christmas Trinity—Eudora Russell.....	53
The Christmas Story—Lillian Doyle Sittler.....	54
"For the Advancement of the Christian Faith".....	63
The Lord God Reigneth—Roger G. Imhoff.....	64
Incarnation—Bell Chapman Morrill.....	101
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	
Junior Lessons in Hymnody—Donald B. Howard.....	26
Try Something—W. Howard Lee.....	43
The Church and the Corrective Institutions—George Stoll.....	52
Church Management Publicity Contest.....	58
Ask the Man Who Tithes—Richard L. James.....	60
What the Jew Owes His Synagogue—Adolph L. Salsburg.....	66
Taxation of Dually Used Church Property—Arthur L. H. Street.....	74
Tips on Buying a Tape Recorder—William H. Hunter.....	86
New Products for Churches.....	102
CHURCH BUILDING	
The Christian Church, South Pasadena, California.....	8
Saint Andrew's Window.....	22
Mural Highlights Nebraska Church.....	28
The Architects Report on New Church Construction.....	100
THE MINISTER	
A Time Chart for Ministers—Gertrude E. Enders.....	11
Ceramics Pay Many Dividends—Frank Curtis Williams.....	15
A Preacher's Prayer—Graham R. Hodges.....	65
The Church Wedding—Horace Craig Casey.....	88
THE MINISTER'S WIFE	
The Pastor's Wife—Joyce Engel.....	40
The Bible Speaks to Us Today—Esther G. Sando.....	40
HOMILETICAL MATERIAL	
Selected Short Sermons—Earl Riney.....	6
The Ministry of Clouds—Philip Jerome Cleveland.....	9
When a Man Prays.....	24
Being Friendly for Jesus—Grover Wilson.....	32
Priming the Parson's Pump—David A. MacLennan.....	44
Sermon Seeds.....	44
Advent.....	48
Notable Quotes.....	50
The Meaning of Names—Stanley Armstrong Hunter.....	72
First Things First—John Schott.....	87
Water From the Well of Bethlehem—Kenneth Earl Ballard.....	92
THE CHANGING WORLD	
That Man Rhee.....	12
Religious News Items.....	16, 37, 58, 62, 95, 96
READERS' COMMENT	
Altar or Communion Table?.....	71
They Say—What Say They?—Let Them Say.....	97
BOOKS	
Parson's Book of the Month.....	49
New Books.....	76
Fiction for Ministers.....	84
EDITORIALS	
They That Take the Hydrogen Bomb.....	7
Prayer and Prayer Meetings.....	7, 90
"The Brewers' Big Horses".....	91, 94
INDICES	
Classified Ads.....	101
Advertisers' Index.....	105

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—Price per copy, 30 cents, except the July issue which is 60 cents. Subscription One Year \$3.00 where United States domestic rate applies. Two Years, \$5.00. Foreign countries, 50 cents per year additional. Canada, 25 cents additional. University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the licensed distributor of microfilmed copies of annual volumes.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Always give both old and new addresses when requesting change for mailing.

MANUSCRIPTS—The editor will be glad to consider articles which may be submitted for prospective publication. Articles should be typewritten. Unavailable manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by return postage.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT is published monthly except August by Church Management, Inc., 1900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 15, Ohio. Entered as second class matter, October 17, 1924, at the post office at Cleveland, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879. Printed in Cleveland, Ohio, U. S. A., by The Independent Press, 2212 Superior Avenue.

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THE DAILY REGISTER

THE DAILY REGISTER, HARRISBURG, ILL., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1953

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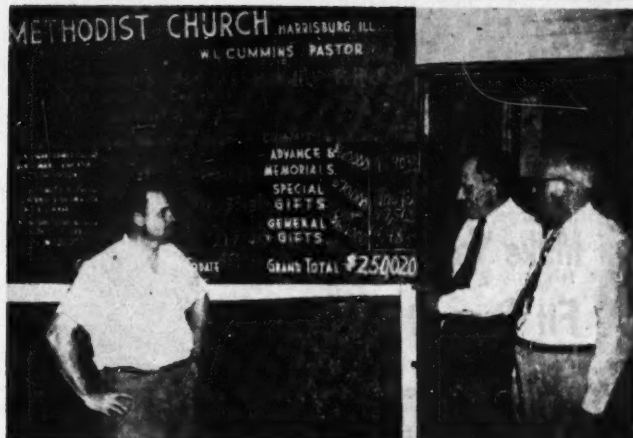
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First Methodist Church, Marion	\$125,000	\$135,007
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THAT'S IT! The Rev W. L. Cummins, pastor of the Harrisburg Methodist church, happily points out to G. O. Davenport (right), general chairman of the new church and youth center building fund campaign, as the pledge figures top the goal of \$250,000 set by the church. Fred Wunderlich, general gift chairman (left), also appears pleased with the final figure. (Daily Register Staff Photo)

Methodists Surpass New Buildings Goal

Set \$250,000,
Beat It by \$20,
Figures Reveal

Several Hundred at
Meeting Last Night
Watch Total Reached

"For the people had a
mind to work."
... Neh 4:6

Harrisburg Methodists wound up their new church and youth center building fund campaign drive last night, topping their goal of \$250,000 by \$20.

Several hundred church members were in attendance for the final committee reports and special victory service. They watched intent-

ly as latest pledge amounts were entered on the huge board which had been moved into the sanctuary for the service.

Early reports swelled the pledge total to some \$220,000, after which two large pledges of \$5,000 and \$6,000 respectively zoomed the total to \$231,000. Several persons then increased or extended their pledges, and this, coupled with reports of pledges by the various church classes and organizations, brought the total within \$1,500 of its goal. Two cash donations then swept the drive to victory.

Cummins Presides

Dr. B. E. Montgomery's advance gift committee had pledges or cash donations totaling \$95,000. The special gift committee, headed by John R. Jackson, exceeded its quota of \$70,000 by \$70, and the general gift committee, directed by Fred Wunderlich, raised \$66,485 in pledges. Church organizations pledged \$17,562.

The Rev. W. L. Cummins, pastor of the church, presided at last night's service. Bill Weston of St. Louis led the singing and directed

the choir in a special number, and Dr. C. C. Hall, of Carbondale, pastor emeritus of the church, spoke to the group.

General Campaign Chairman G. O. Davenport praised the church membership and the many committee chairmen and members for their fine work. Assistant general chairman John Woolcott reported the organizational pledges.

Dr. Montgomery's individual team in the advance gift committee topped its \$40,000 quota, and L. N. Davenport's group in the special gift committee exceeded its \$24,000 goal.

Five team captains — Don Williams, Jack Davenport, Fred Gates, H. E. Young and Dewey Williams — led their teams to quota-topping marks.

Youth of the church, under the guidance of John Schork, almost doubled their quota of \$3,500. The five teams brought in pledges totaling \$6,327.40.

A special meeting of a building committee was expected to be held within the next few days to initiate action on actual construction plans.

NFRS can do the same for you—write to us for an objective conference with your Board or authorized committee

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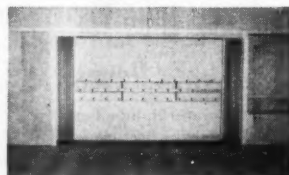
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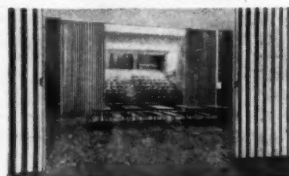
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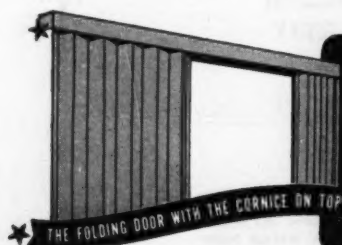
FOLDOOR divides one room into two rooms for Sunday school classes.



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FOLDOOR converts a large area into a number of small classrooms.



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Selected Short Sermons

by Earl Riney

Fear is the great destroyer of faith, hope, ambition, courage, resolution, persistence, and inspiration.

* * *

Each one of us builds our heaven from our deepest needs.

* * *

Personal hygiene is as important as dental hygiene.

* * *

A self-centered person will find himself alone.

* * *

The Bible teaches us to fear God and nothing else.

* * *

A long-lasting marriage doesn't have to be unexciting or dull.

* * *

A beautiful young woman, if she lives righteously, grows into a beautiful old woman.

* * *

Poverty—like old age—begins with a state of mind.

* * *

Let us never confuse bad temper with righteous indignation.

* * *

Superficial people like to be at the head of the parade.

* * *

Generosity is a true sign of genuineness in matters of religious faith.

* * *

Covetousness is the sire of many of the world's most revolting sins.

* * *

Each branch of the Christian church stands for some necessary spiritual emphasis.

* * *

Someone has said that the heart of religion is in its pronouns; take personal pronouns out of religion, and you have philosophy.

* * *

We are never secure unless there are great spiritual depths into which we can cast the anchor of our hopes.

* * *

When sorrow comes down upon us, or trouble in such proportions that we know not where to turn; when sickness threatens all we have hoped for and loved—in these times men frequently become conscious of the presence of God.

* * *

Since you are alive today in a world so abounding in great possibilities for the physical, mental, and spiritual advancement of man; you must also be mindful that there was never a time in our recorded history when this future of man has been so threatened.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT

Edited by William H. Leach



VOLUME XXX
NUMBER 2
NOVEMBER, 1953

They That Take the Hydrogen Bomb

GO back two thousand years. Visit the little land of Judea. See the Galilean prophet, the small town man, who had entered the Jewish metropolis. Few recognized his divinity. But he did have loyal followers. When the temple police came to arrest him one of his disciples came to his defense. A sword flashed and an ear fell to the ground. The prophet rebuked his swordsman.

"Put your sword back in its place; all who draw the sword shall perish by the sword."

Timely words for the day they were spoken. More timely today as a world reeling from the effects of one war, prepares for a possible other.

Today, no one has a good word to say for war. The generals in their uniforms parrot the old phrase that they distrust war and long for peace. Yet the preparations for war goes on. Like an uncontrolled flood of waters it sweeps all life before it. It is a game played for keeps in which the winner usually loses.

The United States did not invent war nor the sword. We have created two great weapons which have been passed on to the world. They are the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb. Let the Caesars and Napoleons boast of their contribution of the sword; we have enough to worry about in the weapons we have given the world.

When two Japanese cities were destroyed by our atomic bomb we revelled in our strength and saw, we thought, an end of war. But the joy was short lived; soon we knew that there can be no exclusive ownership of atomic energy and techniques.

Now we have a later and more terrible bomb for the world. It is the hydrogen bomb. The tumult and the shouting over its development

ceases as we hear the crash of a companion bomb exploding in the land of a hypothetical enemy. The president rushes to the public rostrum to tell us that no tax is too heavy, no sacrifice is too great as long as our enemies have this weapon.

Well, who developed it?

The monster works in many ways. It enables us to destroy our enemies as we did in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But it brings its threat of our own destruction. Perhaps by explosions; maybe by the necessity of arming, arming, arming until our resources are consumed in the game of war.

Most Christians do not take the words of their master very seriously and no so-called Christian nations have inscribed these words about war on their national emblems. But you can place them among the bits of wisdom which should guide the destinies of men. Perhaps it will be the fate of our children to mix their tears with those of the little children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not they, but their fathers should have profited by the words of Jesus.

Not out of place is a story which appears in another column in this issue. A man goes to his pastor with a complaint.

"Pastor, why do you not preach sermons on the second coming of Jesus?"

The reply is prompt.

"Because most of my people have not yet appreciated the first coming."

Prayer and Prayer Meetings

RECENTLY I listened to a very impassioned appeal for the restoration of the old-fashioned prayer meeting. With all due respect to the enthusiastic advocate I thought

(Turn to page 90)



THE CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
South Pasadena,
California

The Christian Church, South Pasadena, California

Dwaine E. Cerbin, Minister

James Ronald Fetridge, Architect, South Pasadena, California

THE setting for the Christian Church is in an area of middle class income home owners. The site is the last remaining space along "church row" which is a tree-lined through street running north and south in this very green and pleasant community of 18,000 people. A community which is proud of its citizenry, homes, schools and churches.

The site is small when such things as off-street parking and the like have to be considered but its prime location led the congregation to vote on building there rather than move to a larger more remote spot.

One of the problems was unifying the new construction with the existing church building which is a typical "California bungalow." California bungalows are exemplified by their low pitched gravel surfaced roof, with exposed rafter ends and decorative wood siding. The feeling of this building is strictly residential and informal. To connect this to a new sanctuary with a rather lofty ceiling and ecclesiastical feeling was accomplished by means of a connecting garden and fence.

Another problem was the off-street parking as required in this city. Provisions for fifteen cars were made, which reduced the green planting area on the

plot to a very bare minimum necessitating making the most out of each planned planting area for its esthetic appeal.

A north-south axis was chosen for orientation of the new building over the traditional east-west due to the noise factor coming from the "through" street paralleling the east side of the site. By having the main entrance face south, the traffic noise could be minimized during the services when the doors are frequently being used and the resulting noise is disturbing. Too, it made the side street which it faces a much more suitable area for leisurely congregation and dispersment.

The design of the sanctuary was developed along contemporary lines with enough restraint to permit the use of traditional elements such as altar, pews, etc. The large glass area facing south replaces the usual rose window and provides a bountiful supply of natural sunlight through the tinted plate glass.

The interior plan was predicated by the nature of the service being conducted.

The pews will be placed in two sections with three aisles for convenience. This church partakes of communion in the seats which necessitates the elements being passed through the con-

gregation. The chancel is deep and has good width so that the deacons and elders of the church can move freely while preserving an atmosphere of order and beauty.

The choir is to be placed on one side of the chancel so that there can be unity in singing and direction. From this vantage point they can also see the minister and in a sense participate as part of the congregation. The church is set up so that the parlor will act as choir vestry room and they can enter directly into the chancel and choir loft or use a processional at will.

A sky light of stained glass panes will bring light into the chancel.

The baptistry is planned for freedom of movement. Dressing rooms on either side of the church divide men from women and the pastor's study provides vestry roof for his preparations. The baptistry has an entrance from either side and a passage around the rear, providing complete means of communication for all needs. A dossal will cover the baptistry except when it is in use, then the dossal will be parted to form a window above the altar through which the sacrament may be viewed. A minimum number of steps up and down make the baptistry easy to use for young and old.

The sound mixing chamber for an electric organ is placed above the baptistry.

The narthex effect is to be gained by using screens behind the last pews, making the roof line longer, providing more light and air, and yet separating the worshippers from late comers and making a friendly reception room.

Traditional and modern symbols were worked in wherever it could be done simply and naturally. For example,

(Turn to page 32)

FROM CHRISTMAS TO ASCENSION

The Ministry of Clouds

*A Sermon by Philip Jerome Cleveland**

For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.
—Psalm 57:10.

CHRISTMAS Night was apparently a most glorious and cloudless night. The skies of Nazareth that arched splendidly over the head of the youthful Child of Nazareth were remarkably clear. The heavens that canopied the baptismal waters of the Jordan were of unclouded blue, and the sun that shone over the sermon on the mount was astonishingly bright. We feel that the experience of Jesus is going to be a shining and undarkened experience.

But we are mistaken.

Have you not gone forth on a summery, cloudless day to enjoy life, the west wind strong and promising, the sun emptying its pot of gold lavishly and bountifully and all signs of the most excellent order? Then—before you are aware of it—the sun has lost the sparkling edge of its gold; its yellow glitter seems paling and a faint, hardly perceptible coolness walks, tip-toes on the wings of the wind. Little clouds are putting in appearance. The entrancing sky darkens, as by subtle, dark music. Heavier clouds assemble as by the voice of some irresistible commander.

Commissioned by that mysterious, authentic wind, to which Jesus referred Nicodemus one dark night, clouds muster from the east, west, north and south to lend meaning, drama, beauty and power to fast-moving events. Remarkable clouds accelerate the dramatic passages to the closing hours of the “day” of the Lord.

We are far on into Matthew’s careful account of the day’s experiences of the Master before we are aware of clouds. We get, in fact, on into the dramatic eighth chapter. Suddenly the skies over Galilee are not wholly night skies, they are storm-tossed and a tempest pours its fury upon the inland Sea of Galilee. Christ must first feel the fury of the storm enwalled in his rural acres, surrounded by the hills of his beautiful boyhood. Clouds were first made manifest “in blue Galilee, where Jesus loved so much to be.”

“And behold there arose a great tempest in the sea.” The almost deadly storm strikes, bitter and merciless, in the glowing areas of his boyhood, on the sea of his first bright experience.

John Keats writes about “Huge cloudly symbols of a high romance.”

There is high romance in this ship where move the Master and his comrades, high romance that shall conquer tempest, the fury of life. Here is love that will subdue time and tide. The clouds closet these dear ones even more closely; in the storm Jesus is discovered in his power and glory. A cloud precipitates a miraculous climax to fellowship; Jesus rises from sleep to calm the nightmare of a sea on rampage. A dark cloud opens the last passages in the life of Jesus that lead on from a wild sea to dry land and a wild melee on a hill shaped like a skull and to a more deadly holocaust of agony. Clouds over Galilee suggest the close of those dear, sylvan nights over the Lord and his own, when they all sleep in peace beneath the stars of home.

Clouds are more intimately associated with mountain peaks than with the crests of waves. So we are not surprised when Luke, the physician, prescribes a diet of high places for the low, groveling spirits of bogged-down disciples. “Up into the mount!” Peter, James and John must press up a steep ascent of heaven and stretch arms to the pure, bright clouds of the upper air. They leave the dark clouds of the tempest-driven sea for the shining clouds of the Mount of Transfiguration.

Our Lord becomes invested with the white-gleaming robes of the wardrobe of the heavens! A cloud becomes “the door” to the very soul of the Master; it will hide him and then reveal him again as the eternal Son of the living God. Moses and Elijah will fade from the effulgence; Jesus will remain framed by a sun-gleaming cloud. Higher than earth is Jesus, like the cloud. Pure and beautiful he is, like the clean water-cloud.

Clouds transfigure mountains; Jesus transfigures everything. Great and wonderful meanings are enwrapped in this mountain-top experience!

Jesus lived with clouds. He used

them to inbreathe his sermons; they added white wings to the sublime power of his messages. He transfigured pointed passages by his witness to the clouds.

In his 9th chapter Luke portrayed the transfigured mountain and in the twelfth chapter he depicts the Lord weaving cloudland into a sermon.

“And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower, and so it is . . . Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern the time?” A dark cloud gives zesty breeze and stinging tang to the moving passages of his message! Clouds are exquisite, timely sermon illustrations. They carried more freight of flowers and showers than we can ever know!

Clouds do unfold amazing prophecies to weather-bureaus and experienced sea-captains and intrepid adventurers; they have saved hundreds of thousands of imperiled lives.

St. John, too, gets his eyes on clouds. Do we never associate thunder with clouds? It was apparently a day of developing darkness when the Master spoke of the cross that loomed ahead and bent his head in solemn prayer. In the twelfth chapter John records the prayer:

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour; but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify Thy name.

“Then came a voice from heaven saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.

“The people therefore, that stood by and heard it, said that it thundered . . .”

The next moment Jesus warns his auditors: “Walk while ye have the light lest darkness come . . .” Undoubtedly the impending darkness draped the solemn words with tremendous meaning. The chill of the cloud adds to the drama of the hour and forecasts the blackness of Calvary. Clouds that now pour across the horizon of Israel, filled with thunder, warn the people that all is not well with the skies over the chosen people. Jesus bids his listeners

*Minister, Church of the Broken Bell, Canterbury, Connecticut.

to pay better attention to the beautiful light of God and to walk in it.

Jesus warns his congregation that clouds will witness to the closing ages of the world's history as this planet moves on toward a final climax. Clouds will become numerous toward the close of the world's probation. Mark makes much of this teaching in his thirteenth chapter.

"Take ye heed. . . . In those days after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Clouds will prevail in black tyranny day and night. There will be a general failure of light. Clouds will index the final chapters to ends of ages and histories. He who can read the scroll of the sky will do well.

There is much testimony now to cloudland in the ministry of Jesus as we are taken to an Upper Room and to a dark, fearful night in an olive garden, to a bloody sweat and to crucifixion. Clouds were thick and oppressive over the hill of death. Matthew makes the fact certain in his twenty-seventh chapter:

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour." There were "three" awful, abyssmal hours of crucial darkness. We may have expected to find clouds draping the backdrop to the cross. Clouds provide crepe for heaven's door during a time of most fearful decrease. Aye, what have men done to the "Light of the world"?

Extinguish the light and what do you get? What did Jerusalem get? What does any nation get or any individual soul? The clouds over Calvary did not resemble the sunlit forms over the Mount of Transfiguration; clouds over Calvary were unlit, symbols of death. Well might men smite upon their guilty breasts and stagger home through the shrouded air pricked in conscience and scenting oncoming ruin!

Luke adds a further significant word of this dreadful hour in his 23rd chapter; he says that "the sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst." The light, too, went out of the holy of holies in the temple of God. The cloud was sovereign over the skies and within the sacred walls of Israel. Clouds proclaimed that the light had departed, the glory had fled from the horizon and inner sanctuary of a people. . . .

The light of the world would now be Jesus and he would flash his glory from hill to hill and temple to temple and church to shrine until the whole world bask in the love and beauty of the incarnate God. No particular place now could be a divine repository for truth and atonement. The Victim of Calvary would arise and shine and

enter heaven and from there encompass the world.

The cloud that hid him from the darkened minds of Jerusalem was soon exchanged for another, a bright and golden cloud, that closeted him with God forever. For there was a cloud that shined the lovely hill of Ascension at Bethany. Luke reveals this glory in the first chapter of the Book of Acts.

"And while they beheld, he was taken up! and a cloud received him out of their sight." "Open, fair portals!" Clouds were the golden gates that lifted up the King of glory when he again entered heaven's holy of holies. The Light has left the barren temple of Herod and has gone into heaven for us and is now made available to all the world!

And from the bright cloud that is the chariot that carries the Son back to the Father—for God maketh the clouds his chariots—two angels speak to the amazed and wondering disciples. They announce the bright return of this same Jesus—in like manner as he has gone into heaven—which means, garmented with clouds. John adds the same thought to his amazing Book that reveals:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him."

Our Lord's Christian ministry with clouds is not yet finished. Another great and climactic passage, as of DIES IRAE, will have triumphal entry trumpeted by clouds.

Even heaven's beauty will not be perfect without this sublime and timeless ministry. St. John in Revelation 14:14 states:

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man having on his head a golden crown." Forever will clouds of beauty, no longer dark and frightening, but everyone's face bright and radiant, be associated with the Redeemer, whose creative genius formed the clouds from the triune wonder of water and sun and atoms. There will always be a Christian ministry of clouds.

But what is the meaning of the clouds? As earth teems with activity toward the Nazarene, the heavens become active and dominant. As evil men swarm to enfold him, the skies move to overshadow him. To get at the sublime meaning here we must notice our text for a moment. King David faces trouble. Psalm 57 is a wail against time and circumstance.

David asks to be saved "from the reproach of him who would swallow me up. . . . My soul is among lions; I lie among those who are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears

and arrows, and their teeth a sharp sword. . . . They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have digged a pit before me. . . ."

In such a down-to-earth hour it is fine to look up and diet on clouds—clouds that roam freely and divinely in God's blue. That is precisely what David does. He notes that man apparently has seized earth; but does not God possess the heavens? Do not clouds overrun the earth and prevail? David remembers his days as a happy shepherd-boy when a lion came against him and a bear, when he was encompassed by woodland nets and pits. But did not David relax on the sunny hills of Judea in the shadow of a great rock and watch the clouds float dreamily and magnificently across the sky? High up in the free realm of heaven did not the pageant of the Eternal pass daily?

A boy received his vision of eternity and infinity and of God, supreme artist mixing his colors, as he lay sprawled on a hill summer days and nights, admiring the moving phalanxes of the clouds, heaven's bright and victorious armaments. And now, the king, hemmed in, assaulted, betrayed, looks up above the mean, contemptible city, men and politics to the God who prevails with wind, rain, sun and cloud:

"Be Thou exalted, O GOD, ABOVE the earth—" yea, even as the clouds. "Let Thy glory be above all the earth. . . . Awake up, my glory. . . . I will praise the Lord. . . . I will sing. . . . For Thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and Thy truth unto the clouds. Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Thy glory be above all the earth."

Did not the Nazarene, too, see in clouds the symbols of eternity—the garments of the ever-glorious Father?

Down in the valley an epileptic boy, an agonized father and helpless disciples gathered, hopeless, amid lean and brutal circumstances. It was a vision of terrible failure. But high upon a mountain cloud, bright and beatific, heralded the presence of God and the victory of divine power.

"Lord, it is beautiful for us to be here!" exclaimed the raptured Peter. (The Greek word is not good, but beautiful, not agathos but kalos.) Yes, up there beauty reigned, among the creations of God that had not fallen from grace or become polluted by men and things. Not the men of the lowlands, but the Christ of Cloudland,—he will heal the epileptic boy at the base of the mountain and heal the world.

In one of the German art galleries is a painting entitled: "CLOUDLAND". It hangs at the end of a long, spacious gallery. At first sight

(Turn to page 20)

YOU CAN PROFIT FROM

A Time Chart for Ministers

by Gertrude E. Enders*

THERE is an old joke about a preacher's son who boasted that his dad got up in the pulpit on Sunday, orated for half an hour, and it took six men to gather up the money. This story rarely rates more than a few polite smiles these days. However, there are still many members of congregations who have only the haziest notion of how their minister spends his time. They seem to feel it is a "soft" job. How little do they know!

This was brought home to my father several years ago while he was still in the active ministry. He had given his usual annual report concerning the number of visits made, meetings attended, weddings, funerals, etc., at which he had officiated, but these statistics meant little to some members who still wished to know what he did with his time.

Upon reflection we decided that most of the members of the congregation figured their labors on the basis of time spent rather than activities accomplished. We prepared a time chart, covering all of dad's ministerial activities, which he tried out for several months. Interestingly enough, it not only proved that dad was putting in on church or church-related activities well over the usual forty-hour work week of his parishioners, but it also gave him a much better insight into the proportion of time he was spending on various activities. He discovered that in the course of a month he was spending much more time than he realized on some phases of his work while he was not doing as much as he thought on others.

A similar chart can be easily set up and used by any minister wishing either to give a different slant to his congregational reports or to evaluate his own work.

We divided our chart into four major sections, for dad believed that his call and his responsibility went far beyond his own local church and denomination. The first, and the most extensive section, was labelled Local Church. In the preliminary draft we noted here all activities under general headings relating to the local church. (See illustration I.) In this preliminary draft we included explanatory notes to help

us clarify our own thinking as we went along.

The remaining sections, each treated in the same manner, followed in this order: Denominational; Local Interdenominational and Community; and Interdenominational on a National Level. (See preliminary draft which follows article.)

Having a clear overall picture of the activities listed and how they were broken down, we cut our headings as short as possible and set up the time chart in its working form. (See illustration II.) Our chart was prepared on a two-week basis because it was made with a portable typewriter and letter-size paper. With legal-size paper and a long carriage typewriter a period of a month could easily be put on one sheet. The two- or even a one-week period has the advantage of permitting you to check on yourself oftener as you go along.

Only a few minutes was required each evening to make a quick survey of the work done during the day and to estimate the amount of time spent on each activity. Time was usually recorded by number of hours with occasional half- or quarter-hour entries. Totalling the time becomes a very

cumbersome job if it is recorded with very many fractions or if it is done by minutes. Since many parts of a clergyman's job do not fall easily into one hour for this and two hours for that, it proved expedient to use a little judgment, allowing a few minutes over an hour on one day to balance a few minutes under at another time.

If you wish to make a real evaluation of your time in terms of remedying any over-emphasis or slighting of tasks, use your preliminary listing as a control. Before starting to use the Time Chart, indicate on your preliminary draft the percentage of time per month that you feel you should be spending on each activity listed. Then, to be perfectly fair to yourself, try to forget these percentages and do not look at them again until a month has passed. Go about your business as usual during that month. Then total your time spent on each activity, convert the totals into percentages and compare with your original estimates as noted on your preliminary sheet. You may decide that your estimates were unrealistic or, from this point on, you may wish to make some changes in your work habits.

(Turn to page 30)

ILLUSTRATION II
TIME CHART

	TOTAL									
LOCAL CHURCH										
STUDY										
TEACHING & PREACHING										
VISITATION										
MEETINGS										
BUSINESS & CLERICAL										
MINISTERING										
MISCELLANEOUS										
DENOMINATIONAL										
CONFERENCES, ETC.										
BOARDS & COMMITTEES										
WRITING										
MISCELLANEOUS										
INTERDENOMINATIONAL (LOCAL)										
MINISTERIAL GROUPS										
LOCAL CHARITIES										
SECULAR MEETINGS										
INTERDENOMINATIONAL (NATIONAL)										
TOTAL										

THIS CHART, EASILY MADE WITH A TYPEWRITER, WILL ENABLE YOU TO ANALYZE YOUR OWN STEWARDSHIP ON TIME

*Arlington, Virginia.

That Man Rhee

IT was in 1934, when I was living in a downtown hotel in New York City, that I found my good friend Dr. Sydney Strong at the same hotel. He asked me to go with him to call on a couple of peace loving friends. One afternoon I went with him to a beautiful residence on Park Avenue. As we were ushered in I noticed the elegant and tasteful arrangement of the furniture and ornamental art pieces which reflected the refinement and culture of the occupants. It was a pleasure to find myself in such quiet serenity in the heart of that hustling and bustling metropolis. I was introduced to the hostess, who was full of gentle grace and charm, and then to her husband, who was a perfect gentleman. They were, perhaps, a little beyond middle age. If I remember correctly he edited a peace magazine of his own.

As we were being seated the gentleman surprised me by asking the following question. "Dr. Rhee, if enemies were to invade your country, would you take up arms and go out to fight them?"

"Yes, I would," I replied without a second thought.

Then he bent down, looked me full in the face, as if to watch my reaction, and said, "You are a militarist."

I blushed but managed, with some effort, to restrain myself. After a little while I excused myself and left. From that time on I have never learned what sort of an impression I left with those good people but I know that I left with a poor opinion of the fanatical pacifists of this country.

I used to have, and I still have, a high respect for the peace advocates who, like the Confucian philosophers of the Orient, condemn war as an evil, which every civilized man should shun and spurn. I hold in high esteem the conscientious objectors who, for the sake of religious convictions or humanitarian principles, refuse to take up arms against their fellow men. But those militant pacifists who are opposed to any and every kind of war, whether for national defense, national honor, or national independence are, to my mind, just as dangerous and subversive as any fifth columnist. Their motives may be different but the results are the same. They are, perhaps unconsciously, courting disaster for their nation. While they are making no effort to keep war making nations from waging war, they try to keep their own non-aggressive nation from even preparing for defense.

If we are to condemn all of the wars that America has fought, as they demand, we should destroy the Washington monument and the Lincoln Memorial and do away with the liberty and justice which were the fruits of those wars, which are our priceless heritage. Any man who refuses to fight for his country because he believes in peace has no claim to my sympathy. I was, and still am a man of peace, but to be called by an American a "militarist," was an intolerable insult. The good people who called me that did not know of my experiences in Korea or, perhaps it was just their usual way of preaching their peace ideas to everyone they met. To tell the truth, if I had been a militarist thirty-five years ago and if the United States had not helped militarists to destroy non-militaristic Korea, I would not have become as I am now, "a man without a country."

What Happens to a Pacifistic Nation

Korea is a good example of what happens to a nation which is not prepared to defend its own sovereignty. For forty-five centuries this nation maintained itself despite of all the wars imposed upon it by the war-like neighbors, including the Hideyoshi, the Napoleon of Japan, which was more devastating and more inhuman than the recent Nazi invasions of Norway, Denmark, Holland and France. The people were satisfied with their own rulers and were determined to defend, at any cost, the peaceful life of their ancient Kingdom. They enjoyed a standard of Oriental civilization even higher than that of China.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century the United States was casting about to find new markets for its products. After Commodore Perry had forced the open door on Japan, Admiral Shufelt knocked at the Korean door and asked its government for treaty relations with the United States. The government of the hermit nation, declined on the ground that "we have had too much trouble with our neighbors, especially Japan; and we choose to remain detached." America urged the treaty and promised its protection in case of trouble. With that clear understanding, Korea made the treaty of 1882, containing the amity clause. American commercial interests rejoiced.

When Japan began to "deal unjustly and oppressively with Korea," the Korean Emperor asked the American government to "use its good offices," as

Syngman Rhee has been very much in the American mind during the past few years. He has been pictured as a great national hero, a stubborn politician, a devout Christian and an Oriental despot.

In reality he is a Christian of intense loyalties. His recent nationalistic actions in Korea are true to the background and character of the man. The editor of "Church Management" has known him for many years. We have published several articles from his pen. The words used in this story are taken from an article published by us in the June, 1941 issue.

Dr. Rhee was born a Confucian. As a young man he enrolled in the Methodist College in Pai Chai. Here he learned the Christian philosophy. Very early he associated himself with the Nationalist party and was one of the founders of the first Korean newspaper. When this party was liquidated, he was thrown into prison and lay for months with his feet in stocks and a wooden collar about his neck.

Added to his nationalistic spirit he has been a bitter foe of all things Japanese. The old Japanese government placed a price upon his head.

He came to the United States in 1904 on a special diplomatic mission. This has been his home off and on since that date. In the United States he has been active in the Methodist church. The reader of this excerpt from our article of twelve years ago will reach the conclusion, I think, that the nationalist who protested at that time the oppression by Japan is true to his character in demanding the exclusion of Communists from Korean soil.

To the world Dr. Rhee may appear as a hard-boiled statesman. To the editor of "Church Management" he is a friend with a heart. It was back in the days of that severe crisis when he challenged the United Nations by releasing 27,000 prisoners of war. Those were tough days. A telephone message came to Captain John K. Leach, son of the editor, in a Korean army camp inviting him to Seoul for a half day's visit with Dr. and Mrs. Rhee. For several hours all noise of war was forgotten as the President of Korea sought to repay courtesies extended him in the states.

had been promised. The latter, however, turned a deaf ear to repeated Korean appeals and American diplomats in Seoul jeered at the Koreans for trusting such a "foolish promise." To cover up the blunders the Americans sought to make excuses on the basis of the weakness of the emperor, the corruptions and intrigues of the

(Turn to page 31)

THE PAGEANT OF THE CRECHE

An Outdoor Presentation for Christmas

by Norman L. Hersey *

(With the increasing use by many churches, of outdoor figures and scenes to illustrate the Holy Birth, it seems that the setting up of the creche might well serve as a background for a pageant in keeping with the season.)

Characters

THE HERALD ANGEL: Either a young man or girl from the youth group, one with a good speaking voice. (It would be well to have the church's portable sound system set up for both the Angel and Choir to use.)

ICONOPHERS: These carry the figures of the tableau and put them in place as directed. If your figures are heavy, you will need two; if not, one will be sufficient. They are dressed in black, close-fitting costumes, so that they will be as inconspicuous as possible.

THE CHOIR: If the children's choir is used, they might well be dressed as angels.

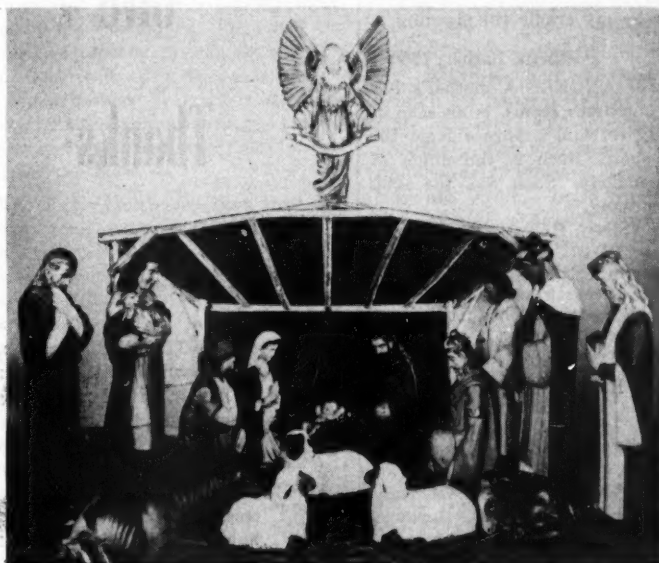
THE MINISTER

Setting

On the church lawn or wherever the outdoor nativity scene is usually set up. Previous to the actual presentation, a rehearsal should be held and the positioning of the figures, the floodlighting, etc., thoroughly arranged. The creche is in place but in darkness. The figures of Mary, the Babe and Joseph are in position as are the animals. But there is no light upon them. The other figures: shepherds, kings, camels, etc., are stored behind the creche out of sight, but in order of appearance for easy handling. If there is an angel in your set, it should be in place and floodlighted as the music begins. The area around the creche is roped off so that all may see without interrupting the action. Remember, the larger the audience, the more space around the setting.

The Herald Angel is robed and stands on a microphone-equipped platform at one side. A soft amber spot shines down.

Prior to the beginning of the pageant, the loud speakers in the church tower,



A LIFE-SIZED CRECHE, PLACED ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS, CAN ADD MUCH TO YOUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

or the carillon play, "O, Come All Ye Faithful."

HERALD ANGEL: Come, draw near good people, that we may tell you in music and song, the story again of that day long past, yet ever present, when God, himself, sent down to us his divine messenger, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHOIR:

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of Heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Arelus Clemens Prudentius, 413

HERALD ANGEL: In Bethlehem of Judea, so the ancient writers tell us, this miracle took place. On a night both calm and still. A night expectant with the coming of portentous news and glad tidings.

CHOIR:

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

Phillips Brooks, 1868

HERALD ANGEL: To Joseph, of the line of David, came Heaven's messenger, telling of the forthcoming birth. In the fulness of time, compelled by civil decree, he must of necessity, return with his wife to the place of his birth. There he found no shelter, save in the stable of the village inn. [Figure of Joseph is spotlighted.] It was there that the patient Mary gave birth to the King of Kings. There amid the animals—the lowly creatures whose love was first to warm him. [Mary,

*Managing editor, "Church Management." Upon request made to the office of "Church Management," readers will receive the names of supply houses which provide the life sized figures for the creche, or pictorial backgrounds if that is desired.

the Babe and animals are floodlighted.]

CHOIR:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He
makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from
the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is
nigh.

Martin Luther, 1530

HERALD ANGEL: A mother's lullaby, it sometimes seems, is an echo of a heavenly refrain, a phrase from the celestial choir. Such is the union of love and melody. Such was the song that Mary sang.

SOLO: "Sleep, Holy Babe"

Sleep, Holy Babe!
Upon Thy mother's breast;
Great Lord of earth and sea and sky,
How sweet it is to see Thee lie
In such a place of rest,
In such a place of rest.

Sleep, Holy Babe!
Thine angels watch around,
All bending low with folded wings,
Before th' incarnate King of Kings,
In rev'rent awe profound,
In rev'rent awe profound.

Sleep, Holy Babe!
While I with Mary gaze
In Joy upon that face awhile
Upon the loving infant smile
Which there divinely plays,
Which there divinely plays.

Sleep, Holy Babe!
Ah! Take Thy brief repose;
Too quickly will Thy slumbers break,
And Thou to lengthened pains awake,
That death alone shall close,
That death alone shall close.

Edward Caswall

HERALD ANGEL: To the humble folk of earth, the message of heaven was sent. Hence, it was to poor shepherds watching their flocks on the hillside, beneath the still canopy of stars, that the good news was first told.

CHOIR:

While shepherds watched their flocks
by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," he said—for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind,
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town this day,
Is born of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:
And this shall be the sign.

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
(Turn to page 28)

Let Us Give Thanks*



LET US GIVE THANKS! For the old sweet fashions of nature in the ritual of the seasons, for the wonder of seedtime, summer, and autumn harvest; for the stores of material good for our use and blessing; for the skies over all, deepening as we gaze, and for that other sky within us, which widens into strange distances.

LET US GIVE THANKS! For the ancient human road along which we journey, trodden by so many feet before us; for the flowers of Divine grace and human kindness along the way; for the disciplines and tasks that train us for strength and honor; for the Kindly Light that leads us, for the Love that heals our hurts and the Mercy that lifts us when we fall.

LET US GIVE THANKS! For our country and its laws; for home and family, and the dear love of comrades; for sorrows that subdue us to sobs and weal us in love unto our kind; for the growth of pity and justice in the hearts of men; for all saints and seers and teachers who interpret to us the way and will of the Eternal for our journey.

LET US GIVE THANKS! For thy church of every rite and name; for the fellowship of the seekers, finders, and servers of the truth that makes all other truth true; for the advance toward unity and understanding of the things of the Spirit, the doing of all good, and for its sake the suffering of all evil; for the coming of the Great Church and the hope of a new dimension of fellowship—that thy way may be known upon the earth, and thy saving health to all peoples.

LET US GIVE THANKS! For the dawn of the hope of peace, slow though it be; for the troubled and clouded morning of a new day, when men shall learn that the hurt of one is the injury of all, and that humanity rises and falls together; for the discovery that the human heart is everywhere the same, and that justice and love are the paths to it; for the hope, dim but undefeated, that war shall be no more—O God of mercy, give us faith and patience and the wisdom of understanding!

LET US GIVE THANKS! For the organization of life in education, art and character; for the communion of man in spiritual faith, moral endeavor, and the quest of truth, whereby he may be able, at last, to use new and strange power for good and not for destruction; for the dream which even the tide of terror cannot quench—that love will one day everywhere prevail, to the confounding of all unkindness, all uncleanness; for thy creative and undefeatable love, our Father, who art the meaning of life and its mystery; thou art the hope of our hearts and the home of all souls, of all races and clans; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Excerpts from a prayer by the late Joseph Fort Newton.

A HOBBY WHICH SERVES THE CHURCH

Ceramics Pay Many Dividends

by Frank Curtis Williams*

MANY people are turning to hobbies these days. The pressure of modern living has made it necessary for every man to develop creative outlets through which his independence and individual personality can find expression. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "All men live by truth and stand in need of expression. The man is only half himself. The other half is his expression. It is like good bread." The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company booklet, "Life to Come" has this to say: "Hobbies can be extremely rewarding. The mind, as one grows older, gets exercise all right, but too often it is the kind that ties knots in stomachs and tightens up arteries—exaggerated worry, for example, or fussing over trifles, or thinking that the world will come to an end unless work is continued at high pressure day in and day out. To get into the habit of play—of having an interest outside one's work—is a wise provision for the years to come when time may lie heavily on the hands."

One summer I took a pound of modelling clay on my vacation. Having had no previous experience with this earthy medium it was so completely different that it aroused my curiosity. Then, one day, while driving along a country road in Vermont there appeared a sign which read, "Wagon Wheel Studio, Instructions in Ceramics." Our curiosity aroused, my wife and I went in to explore, as one does on vacation. To our delight we found a Christian woman with a message in pottery as well as a rich philosophy. It seemed like divine guidance because we were actually lost in the remote back country. We took a four-hour lesson, stayed for dinner and returned for two other work periods before the Labor Day call to duty.

Once back in the parish there was little time for pottery until one Monday in November. I began to experiment with the design of the coat-of-arms of the Reformed Church, a beautiful symbol taken from William the Silent, who gave rise to the Reformation in the Netherlands. I scratched the design on a plate, liked it and turned out fifteen plates that Decem-

ber as year-end awards for the members of the Consistory. Each had the symbol of the church and his own initials inscribed as a permanent token of remembrance. A friendly message of appreciation commemorating a memorable year was written in clay on the back of the plate.

I told the Consistory that they had earned their letters. The plates were displayed with pride in conspicuous places in their homes. That year it had been difficult to find replacements for the executive body in our rotating system. The following year there was an abundance of candidates. We increased the number on the Board to eighteen and have repeated the December award each year with variations. The special recognition of meritorious service has had a good effect in the life of the church.

Special events have provided opportunities for the new hobby. A popular organist left the church. Each choir member's name was fired on a plate in the form of notes on a treble clef. The members, seeing their names in the hands of one greatly loved, felt that they had a stake in concrete remembrance.

The Men's Club asked for a program on pottery. I gave a lecture on this ancient craft, demonstrated the pouring of a mold and had each member scratch his name in the wet clay. The plate was fired and presented to the president. The men were all given a small piece of ten-cent store modelling clay and a time limit was fixed for their creative endeavor. Some remarkably good figures resulted and the men themselves acted as the judges. Prizes were given in the form of art objects from the pastor's collection.

Members of the Junior Department of the Sunday school, in planning a worship center, requested two candlesticks. One Sunday every child present scratched his or her name in the wet clay base and the completed object, used from week to week, bears their imprint. An evening was given over to pottery in the troops of the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts. Plans are being drawn up for a workshop with ceramic instruction in the youth program.

One Christmas my wife and I made all of our own gifts. We have given several wedding presents in the form of candlesticks, plates or art objects with the names and dates inscribed.



YOUR CERAMIC STUDIO BECOMES A CONSTANT SHOW PLACE

*Minister, South Reformed Church, Brooklyn, New York.

The imprint of a child's hand or foot in clay becomes a cherished gift of remembrance.

New Contacts Made

The field of ceramics opened a new circle of contacts to us. At first we paid others to do our firing. This put us in touch with a variety of people, some of whom became active members of the church. When bazaar time came around we had an abundance of gifts from local potters that netted the church over one hundred dollars and aroused interest in those participating.

By the second year we had sold enough gifts on order that we were able to purchase our own kiln. We took the name "Willett Studio" and turned a corner of the basement of our home into the workshop. While we sold some of our items to gift shops we were primarily interested in keeping our hobby a recreation.

Ceramics is a fascinating craft because it touches so many fields of endeavor. First, there is the clay. That in itself is intriguing. One acquaintance found that the clay of her own back yard had a distinctive color and it was used to develop a new kind of pottery. We are strangely akin to clay and man's history is written in this earthy element, literally. From the time that early man found his footprint in the clay baked by the sun his successors have left the record of their civilization in clay. One clay can be imposed upon another with beautiful effect. The study of this simple element is a study by itself. The feel of the clay as one shapes it into something of beauty is a big satisfaction.

Secondly, the mold is another source of study. Some potters specialize in mold making. By inverting any shape of bowl one can pour over it plaster of paris and reproduce the clay object a number of times.

Thirdly, the artistry of design appeals to many. Christmas card figures, lettering and one's own fancy give a wide range to creative expression. The study of Indian design, the Pennsylvania Dutch or the art of the nations will suggest a starting point from which one can depart in the endless range of free expression.

Fourthly, the use of glazes brings one into a new realm—heat chemistry. Matching different glazes with different clays gives one an endless world for research and exploration. Every creation is your own and there is always excitement in lifting the kiln lid and discovering the result of your effort under 1800 degree temperature.

The Firing of the Clay

After the clay is fashioned into the desired shape it has to be fired. At first, we had our work fired by other

potters who were fortunate enough to have their own kiln. This service is rendered for a small charge. When we had made a hundred dollars in the sale of our work we purchased our own kiln.

The firing takes place in two stages, the biscuit and the glaze firing. The clay object must be allowed to dry thoroughly. It is then placed in a kiln of fire brick with an electric coil embedded. A small opening in the side of the kiln provides one with the window through which to watch the progress of the heat. Industrial chemistry has made available small geometric cones which are scaled to melt at the desired temperature. When the cone bends, the observer knows that the firing is completed. Different clays require different temperatures. In our case, we use Stewart clay, which fires at 945 degrees Centigrade or 1733 degrees Fahrenheit. The cone, listed 08, begins to melt after about four hours of this intense heat. The electricity is then turned off and the kiln is allowed to cool. After a minimum of four hours the lid or door is opened slowly. More time is desirable.

Then the clay, now called biscuit because it is hardened, is covered with the desired glaze finish. This may be brushed on or sprayed on or even dipped and the object is put back into the kiln, this time on stilts to keep it from fusing with the floor or kiln shelf. Again, the heat is turned on, this time with a glaze cone. We use an 06 cone for glazing. This represents a temperature of 1005 degrees Centigrade or 1841 degrees Fahrenheit (Orton Pyrometric Cone). After three and a half hours one begins to watch the cone against the red interior of the kiln. When the cone begins to bend over, the electricity is turned off and the kiln is allowed to cool. After eight hours the lid may be opened one inch and then after another hour this may be repeated until the objects desired are brought back to room temperature. Then the fruit of one's labor may be removed and put into service.

Best of all, ceramics is a hobby that one can pick up or lay down at any moment. There is nothing to spoil. Clay will always be there just as you left it. One can work in minutes or hours and always find this the same dependable element. It is a hobby that knows no age limit for young and old can share it. One of the satisfactions that I have found in ceramics is the companionship that my wife and I have shared in our hours of working together in the studio.

It is true that art cannot save a soul for Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." However, the cup and the plate hold important places in our faith. In these days of mechani-

zation the message of art and individual creation can be helpful. Keats was right when he wrote in his "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "Beauty is truth, truth beauty."

Jeremiah took one of his lessons from the potter's wheel (Jeremiah 18: 2) and Ananias referred to Paul as "A chosen vessel" (Acts 9-15). Jesus used fish as a means of grace and the tokens of every day are what we make them. When the Alabaster box was opened at the home of Simon the leper at Bethany, Jesus was pleased with the quality of the remembrance. Ceramics is one of the most ancient of the crafts. Clay awaits the potter's hand and this brings us close to our Creator as we remember those words of the hymn by George C. Stebbins:

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way.
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

RECORD CHURCH BUILDING YEAR EXPECTED

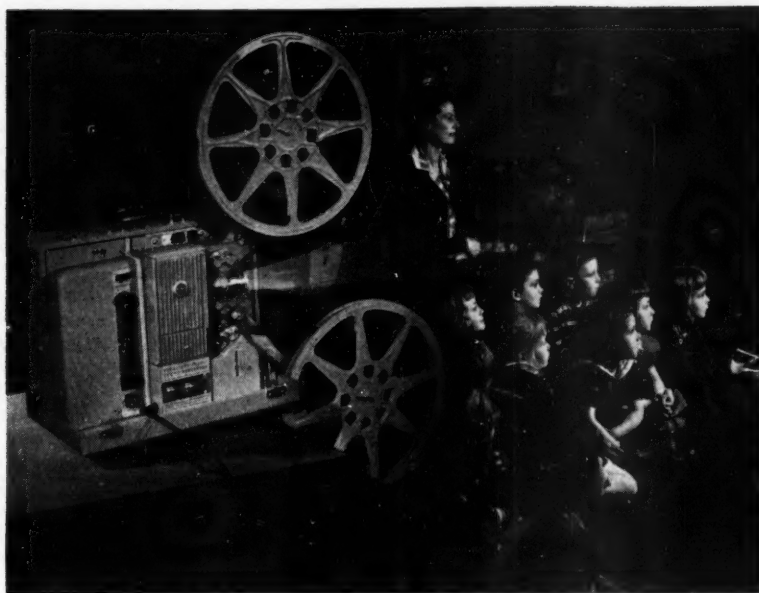
Washington, D. C.—A record church building year was in sight as the Department of Commerce and Labor reported that new starts in the first nine months of 1953 totaled \$337,000,000, a gain of 18 per cent over the 1952 pace.

Reacting to the elimination of government controls over scarce building materials, congregations apparently were pushing ahead with plans for new construction postponed during the critical months after the outbreak of the Korean War.

Government agencies predicted earlier this year that new church construction would reach an all-time high this year, surpassing the previous record of \$441,000,000. Figures for the first nine months seemed to support this forecast.

Construction increased contra-seasonally from \$43,000,000 in August to \$45,000,000 in September. If this trend continues, even at a somewhat slower pace, the total in 1953 may reach \$457,000,000.

Hospital and institutional construction at \$236,000,000 in the first three-quarters of 1953 was 22 per cent below 1952. This type of construction generally received a more generous allocation of building materials during both World War II and the Korean emergency. As a result, the construction backlog was not as great as with churches and schools.



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R. Hilton McCrory
Stanley Projection Company
Alexandria, La.



"There's no doubt about it—improper lubrication is the chief cause of sound-projector breakdowns. A large percentage of projectors that come back to our shop have been either over- or under-oiled. Often this results in big repair bills, to say nothing of the time the projector is out of service. That's why we're getting so many calls for the permanently pre-lubricated Pageant."

William L. Weeden
Oscar H. Hirt, Photographic Supplies
Philadelphia, Pa.



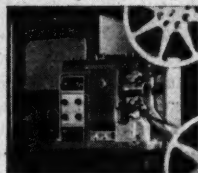
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William C. Reike
Reike Company
Los Angeles, Calif.



"Most projectors that come to our service department for repair are found to have suffered from improper lubrication—either too much or too little. With the Kodascope Pageant this critical maintenance problem has been eliminated. The Pageant is a fine projector at a reasonable price."

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A CHRISTMAS SOLILOQUY

A Shepherd Remembers

by John C. Updegraff*

IF YOU had stood on the hill overlooking Bethlehem in the year 65 you might have seen an aged and weary traveler pause, and sink to rest on a stone, lay his worn shepherd staff beside him and look searchingly at the city below him.

Our traveler had wandered from city to city, from village to village and had talked with any who would listen. It was said of him in those places he visited, "He brings peace to the troubled soul." To him men with troubled minds came to find the answer to their fears. To him men who had been disturbed by many a problem came, not so much for a solution to their problems, as to share a blessing that came to all who were near him. They came to feel the warmth of a great spirit and see the radiance in his eyes as he told them a strange and wonderful story.

Finally we would have seen him rise and move on into Bethlehem stopping to talk to passerby and village dweller. Each one to whom he spoke shook his head in refusal or in negation of the question he asked. The oftener he spoke the sadder he seemed to get. Pausing in front of a rugged inn, he listened to a group of men seated there talking about the weather, the crops, and the lambing season that was soon to come upon them. He listened a while and then joined in their talk for he knew about shepherding.

He asked them the question that he had repeated so often in the streets of Bethlehem. They thought for a moment and replied brusquely, "No, we cannot remember." And his heart seemed to grow increasingly heavy. One of them, more kindly than the others asked, "Why so many questions about the birth of a child long, long ago. Many children have been born in Bethlehem, some perhaps in this very inn. Why

would we remember one particular child?" Our aged friend hesitated a bit and said, "Well, perhaps you'd understand if I'd tell you the story."

He began, "Strange, that men living in and about Bethlehem would not remember an event that was attended by wonderful and mysterious things. An event long foretold by our prophets, long expected, long prayed for. But you, so close at hand, have forgotten."

He was quiet for a moment and then continued, "It all happened a long time ago, when I was a lad, on the first night that I was out with the sheep in company with half a dozen other shepherds. Right out on that hill we stood guarding the flocks that were committed to our care by the citizens of Bethlehem. It was a frightening experience for a mere boy to be out all night. Here were men who for long years had shepherded the sheep. They joshed me about fears and told me stories of terrible experiences that often happened in the middle of the night, and that didn't help my fears very much.

"We were devout men, the shepherds of long ago. It was while our leader led us in the midnight prayer that the night became as the noonday. We heard a man speaking, at first we couldn't understand what he was saying — and finally there came to us the words, 'Be not afraid for unto you there is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord, and ye shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'

"What an amazing thing to come out of the night, that voice from nowhere. And then there was silence, but after a moment or two the very heavens seemed to open up and we heard glorious singing. The eldest shepherd remembered a passage of scripture he had learned as a youth and said, 'It may be true, for the prophet Micah said that in Bethlehem of Judea the Messiah would come as a child. We'd

better go see.' One was elected to stay and the rest of us fled down the hill to Bethlehem. That unearthly light which had so startled us continued in a single beam or shaft emanating from a great star above us and directed us exactly where to go. We soon found ourselves at a stable, a familiar place to shepherds.

"Outside the stable stood a man who would not permit us to enter. He was weary and drawn but had a kindness about him that glowed through his piercing eyes. And we said, 'We are shepherds, an angel spoke to us on the hill and told us that we would find a Saviour born in this stable, and we've come to worship and pay homage to our King.' The man thought a moment and said, 'Well, come in.' He was Joseph, husband of the woman who had borne this child.

"As often happens the youngest member of the group is shoved aside when older men want to see. As we gathered in front of the manger where the mother and the baby were lying, I was pushed clear to the end and in order to see anything at all I had to pull myself up to a window ledge and peer over the shoulder of the shepherd next to me.

"It was a radiantly beautiful sight. I'd never seen a tiny baby before and to see this one was a revelation indeed. As I stood there on tiptoe hanging on to the window frame for dear life, I began to feel a strange warmth creeping over me. I thought perhaps I was near a candle or a lantern, but no, the warmth was in that brilliant star so high above us. Stars are usually cold things, aren't they? But this one had a warmth that I shall never forget, and today when I raise my hand in blessing over people, the warmth returns and I am sure that the peace that I'm supposed to bring comes from the benediction of that upraised hand.

"Well, you must remember the story of Jesus of Nazareth how he was a good teacher, how men brought their sick to him and he healed them, how on one or two occasions he called back from the dead those who had been given up by their families.

"I soon left my shepherding — that night's inspiration never left me and I had to share the warmth of the light in my heart and in my hand. And so up and down Galilee and Judea I wandered speaking to the heartbroken, comforting the distressed, telling them

*Minister, Central Christian Church, New Albany, Indiana.

the same story I've told you tonight, the story of the birth of a blessed Saviour.

"And as I wandered the Babe grew into manhood. Once we nearly met, it was in Capernaum. I was ministering to some unhappy people when his disciples came upon me and heard me bid them return to health in the name and in the spirit of the Babe of Bethlehem. And they said, 'You can't do that, you're not a follower of Jesus.' So I left the city, later I heard that when they reported it to him, he simply said, 'Don't forbid him again, for who he heals or strengthens in my name, cannot ever do harm to me.'

"We continued on—he going his way, I going mine. Finally, I heard that at Jerusalem he had been crucified. That was many, many years ago, but still the power of love that he unleashed in the world is strong.

"The power of love and of his spirit still draws men, as it draws me, onward and upward. And I count the days until my spirit shall be released from this aging body and I can join him.

"What did he bring to the world, this baby of Bethlehem? Was it just a dream that one day we as the people of Israel should be restored to our strength and our political power? No, he had nothing to say about that. He spoke of peace, a peace that passeth all understanding, a peace that makes a man no longer a child of evil, but a child of good. No longer an animal that fears the dark, but a child of God that walks courageously in the light through every trial and every crisis.

"That peace is yours, it's the kind of peace the angels sang about on his birth night. One whose heart beats with the heart of the Babe of Bethlehem can know and share that peace. The peace that passeth all understanding can be yours in Jesus Christ.

"He brought more than peace. He brought hope, a hope that has not died with the passing years—but grows increasingly strong and fervent. The hope that I saw in Mary's eyes as on tiptoe I leaned forward to see her face. Hope that was radiant, hope that was reverent, hope that was wonderful. The hope that in this tiny baby cradled so beautifully in her arms that would come to the world and to her people that for which prophets and sages had so longed prayed—God's holy kingdom; that through the medium of this little one, men would learn how to build that kingdom, and would learn how to live in it. Hope in the redeeming power in the life and personality of that child. That hope still lives and men still today find that redemption in him. It can be yours. But you must want it and ask him for it.

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"Hope and peace—and the promise of an eventual victory through him. Not a victory of arms, or swords; no spears, no victory in battle but the kind of victory a man named Paul speaks about, 'I am more than conqueror through him that loved us,'—a kind of victory within yourself that makes you a greater man than ever before.

"Well, friends, that's the story of a shepherd boy from the hills of Bethlehem, privileged to see the birth of a Saviour, unable to keep that experience to himself he had to share it with all of Judea and Galilee. And now I've come back to Bethlehem—an old, old man, to see if in the heart of his birth city there still burns the radiance that I found here a lifetime ago. The challenge that I heard and answered I give to you—to know the peace of the Babe of Bethlehem, to share the hope of so many thousands of our people that the world through this baby might be saved—beginning with you."

Thus a shepherd remembers and remembering brings a challenge to our day in the 20th century. That that precious event long, long ago be a mark of inspiration and challenge to you and that the peace and the hope and the victory resident within that Babe can be yours today.

Do you have it?

Ministry of the Clouds

(From page 10)

it seems to be a huge, repulsive daub of confused color, without form or beauty. As you approach the huge canvas the picture assumes shape. It proves to be a host of exquisite little cherub faces, like those at the head of the painting in Raphael's "Madonna San Sisto." Standing beside the clouds one sees innumerable angel-faces.

Is that why the Master spent so many hours in desert places alone, on mountain slopes, because he felt the presence of angelic forms and the nearness of God? In those quiet, meditative moments did not the Master sense that God was exalted above the heavens and his glory above the earth?

Did not the soul of the Psalmist (97) sense God's presence, power and majesty in clouds?

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. . . . The heavens declare his righteousness. . . . For Thou, O Lord, art high above the earth."

When fearful words of spring, 1865, reached New York City that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated "the people were in a state of mind which

urges violence." In that critical, thunder-laden hour a man appeared on a balcony of one of the great newspaper offices waving a small American flag. In clear, commanding voice he spoke—for he had commanded men during the Civil War.

"Fellow citizens!" he cried down into the restless throng. "Clouds and darkness are round him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. Follow citizens, GOD REIGNS!"

It was the voice of General James A. Garfield, later president of these United States. That voice of conviction and purpose stilled the roaring tides of life down in the dark streets beneath. Clouds witness to the eternity and sovereignty of God. Who forever reminds us in clouds that the stage properties to this little planet are HIS and all fundamental and ultimate laws?

The cloud that gathered our Lord into its sublime and glorious folds when he ascended from the sun-haloed hills of Bethany, had its sweet message for a sick, shut-in woman.

A pastor visited a poor woman overwhelmed with trouble. Her tiny room was shadowed, lonely; and yet she always seemed cheerful.

"Why, Mary," ventured the pastor, "you must have very dark days; sometimes they must fairly overcome you with clouds."

"Yes, that is true," she responded. "But, then, I often find comfort in a cloud."

"Comfort in a cloud?" ejaculated a stunned pastor.

"Yes. For when I am low and dark I always go to the window, and if I see a heavy cloud I think of those precious words: A CLOUD RECEIVED HIM OUT OF THEIR SIGHT. And I look up and see the cloud, sure enough, and then I think: Well, that may be the cloud that hides him, and so you see there is comfort in a cloud."

However, the finest testimony of earth to a cloud came from a slave, a black Christian woman. This humble soul recognized the Lord and the place of clouds in her life. Walking and talking with the Master had given her rare insight.

She visited, one day in Vicksburg, a white believer, an eminent Christian man who was undergoing much pain and suffering. He observed the happy black Christian woman and was much surprised. The black mammy was as much surprised by the white gentleman's dejection.

"Massa, do you see de bright side dis mornin'?"

"No, Nanny," he replied. "It isn't as bright as I wish it."

"Well, Massa, I allus see de bright side."

"You do? Well, maybe you haven't had much trouble?"

"Me—much trouble?" said she with much vigor. She commenced to narrate her experiences in Virginia in simple, broken manner. She told of the selling of her children, one by one, the auction sale of her husband, herself. She was now alone in camp; she had not heard from husband or one child for years.

"Mebbe I hain't seen no trouble, Massa."

"But, Nanny, have you seen the bright side all the time?"

"Allus, Massa, allus."

"How on earth did you do it?"

"Dis is de way, Massa. When I see de black cloud comin' over"—and she waved her dark hand inside the tent, as though one might be settling down there—"an' it 'pears to me it's comin' crushin' down on me, den I just whips around to de odder side, an' I find de Lord Jesus there, an' den it's all bright an' clear. De bright side allus where Jesus is! Yes-sir-ee, it allus bright there!"

And that was the Master's sublime experience even on Calvary, to whip around the dark clouds, to rise above the thunder and pierce through enclosing walls to the beatific presence of the very God of the clouds.

Harriet Beecher Stowe nobly wrote:

"It lies around us like a cloud,

A world we do not see;

Yet the sweet closing of an eye

May bring us there to be."

This is a precious thought, that our own life with heaven may be hidden by some bright and transient cloud that will one day part its sun-radiant and friendly curtains to usher us into the beatific presence of God. Perhaps one day these golden portals will open for us and we will be lifted up and enter the courts of the King of glory. Clouds may become, for us, the chariots of God, that bring us into the holiest place of all. With angels and clouds the divine Master ascended. Could we have more beatific and shining escort?

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DRAMATIZATION OF CHRISTMAS HYMN

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

by H. Augustine Smith*

(Setting: The ordinary pulpit platform of the church auditorium. Dim lights—brighter light on pulpit Bible.)

1. A PANTOMIME: *The Minister*

(Soft organ music, "Lead Kindly Light" and "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." During the music minister enters, goes at once to pulpit Bible, turns pages of Old Testament, as though searching, sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly. His face, in reflected light from pulpit lamp and Bible, should express perplexity, hope, joy and disappointment.)

2. READING: *The Minister:*

(Soft organ music in minor key)

How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! She is become a widow, that was great among the nations!

She that was a princess among the provinces is become tributary!

Lamentations 1:1.

*This program appears in the author's volume, "Lyric Religion," published by the Fleming H. Revell Company. It is used here by special permission.

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see, if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Wherewith Jehovah hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

Lamentations 1:12.

Bring no more vain oblations. . . . I cannot away with iniquity and the solemn meeting.

Yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes: cease to do evil, learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:13, 15, 16, 17.

Distant choir — "Sanctus" — "Holy, Holy, Holy."

The Minister:

Woe is me! for I am undone! because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have

seen the king, Jehovah of hosts.

Isaiah 6:5.

Distant male quartet:

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

(Minister stands with head bowed over open Bible during one stanza of quartet hymn.)

3. THE FIRST QUESTION AND RESPONSE.

A Voice from the Darkness (from rear of church or side room):

Watchman, what of the night?

Watchman, what of the night?

Isaiah 21:11.

The Minister (starts in surprise—listens intently, turns pages of Bible eagerly and replies):

The morning cometh . . . if ye will inquire, inquire ye.

Isaiah 21:12.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9:2.

(Platform lights grow a little brighter, revealing a group of children—primary and junior ages—at left.)

4. THE SECOND QUESTION AND RESPONSE.

The children (singing):

"Watchman, tell us of the night

What its signs of promise are?"

The Minister (singing):

"Traveler o'er yon mountain height,
See that glory-beaming star!"

There shall come forth a star out of Jacob and sceptre shall rise out of Israel. (From a stereopticon in the rear of the church a star slide, somewhat dim, is thrown on the wall above the minister or at his right, remaining stationary during Third Question and Response.)

5. THE THIRD QUESTION AND RESPONSE.

The children:

"Watchman, doth its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?"

The Minister:

"Traveler, yes, it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel."

I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things. . . . I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, morning star.

Revelation 22:16.

6. THE QUESTIONS OF YOUTH.

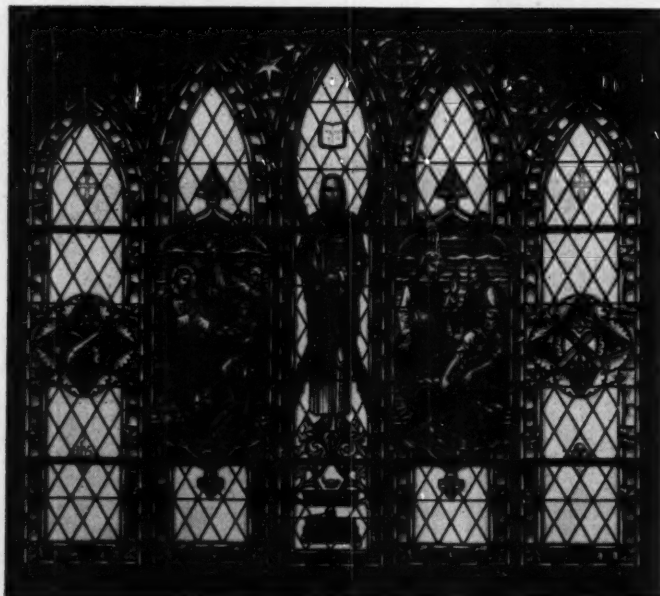
(Enter group of young people down side aisle, singing):

"Watchman, tell us of the night,
Higher yet that star ascends."

(Star grows brighter, higher on wall.)

The Minister:

"Traveler, blessedness and light



Illustration, Courtesy Henry J. Bolln & Son, Inc., N.Y.
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The making of a Saint Andrew window was a long task for Paul Y. Livingston, pastor, Church of Saint Andrew, Richmond Hill, New York City. To secure information he traveled in the Holy Land and walked in the footprints of the saint. The result is the beautiful window shown above.

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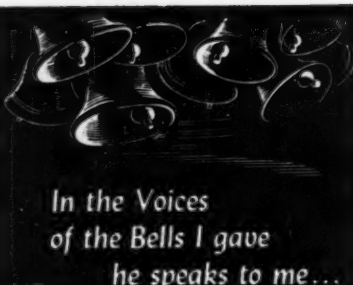
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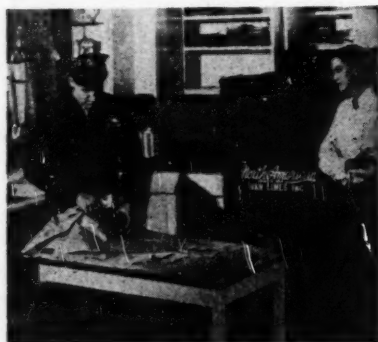
**In the Voices
of the Bells I gave
he speaks to me...**

I hear the old, old song of the bells. Hope and peace... comfort and joy ring out, to lift my heart from sorrow.

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Dept. C53MI, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Peace and truth its course portends."

Peace I leave with you, my peace,
I give unto you.

John 14:27.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

John 14:6.

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32.

7. THE FIFTH QUESTION AND RESPONSE.

Young people:

"Watchman, will its beam alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?"

The Minister:

"Traveler, ages are its own
See, it bursts o'er all the earth."

Distant Choir:

"The Morning Light is Breaking"
(one stanza)

The Minister:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the root of Jesse, that standeth for an ensign of the peoples, unto him shall the nations seek; and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:10.

8. THE QUESTIONS OF MANHOOD.

(Group of men, down center aisle, singing):

"Watchman, tell us of the night
For the morning seems to dawn."

(Platform flooded with rosy light which shines on faces of men.)

The Minister:

I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness; but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12.

(Sings):

"Travelers, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn."

Men:

"Watchman, let thy wandering cease,
Hie thee to thy quiet home."

The Minister:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Sings):

"Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!"

(Organ music of triumphant type as choir enters and children, youth and manhood group themselves around the minister and the Bible. Star slide, now amber, is slowly lowered and enlarged

until it shines full on the entire group on platform.

Pulpit light elevated, or white spot light from rear, illumines—The Angel—center rear).

The Angel sings *The Birthday of a King*—Neidlinger, with entire group singing the chorus.

Prayer and benediction by the minister or, led by group on platform, entire congregation joins in *Joy to the World* or *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

Prayer and benediction.

WHEN A MAN PRAYS

Years ago, when Captain Alexander Livingston was serving as mate on the good ship, Turretbell, his vessel went aground on a hard reef off Prince Edward Island during a storm. The gale was so bad that the crew was unable even to launch a lifeboat, and, in the very sight of farm folks standing helpless on a high cliff above them, the ship began to break up.

In desperation, the crew rigged up a handkerchief-parachute, tied a string to it, and flung it high into the air. The wind carried it straight toward the cliff but repeatedly a downdraft of air plunged it into the sea. Again they made a kite, with an old tin can for a tail, which, after much whipping around, finally landed on the cliff. To the twine they attached a line, and to the line a hawser. Then, with a bo's'n's chair they managed to get every man safely ashore.

Prayer is something like that. Our petitions are like kites lifted up into the realms of heaven, where God waits to receive them. Through them we make ever more powerful contacts with him, and by them we ourselves are finally drawn close and safe into his presence.

—Arthur A. Rouner in *When a Man Prays*. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

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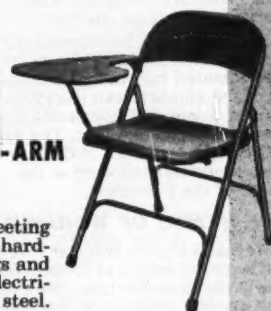
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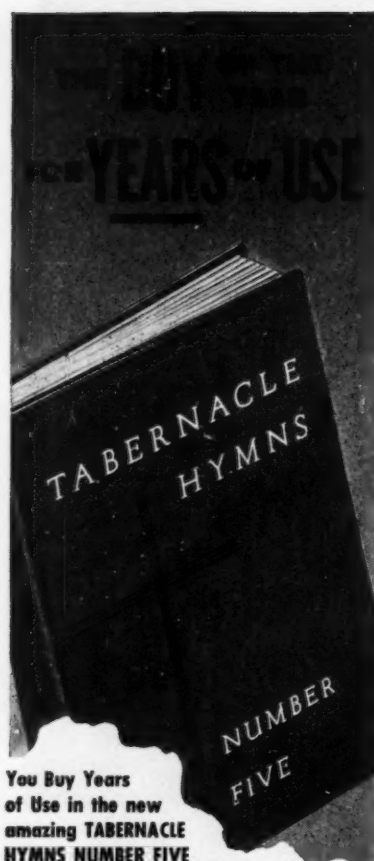
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INTERPRETING HYMN TUNES

Junior Lessons in Hymnody

by Donald B. Howard*

IN two of his letters to Christian friends Paul advised them to sing — psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs because it is a happy way to show and share our love for God and each other. We make melody in our hearts and with our lips for knowing Jesus and wanting to be more like him.

Let us sing now not a psalm or a hymn but a spiritual song of praise and prayer. (Announce number.)

Sixty years ago a Wellesley college professor, Katherine Lee Bates, went to Chicago to the big fair celebrating the changes in the four hundred years since Christopher Columbus first saw America. Of course he did not call it America as Professor Bates and you and I do. After taking the wonderful sights at Chicago that summer of 1893 she went across the broad prairies as far as Denver and the majestic Rocky Mountains. Thrilled, she wrote in praise of what she had seen and prayed God that we Americans would use His good gifts to make our people one family from the Atlantic to the Pacific. She named her song "America" but we call it "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." (Done.)

Now some of you noticed the word *Materna* under the title and wonder, "What does that word mean?" It means "like a mother," "motherly." *Materna* is the name of the tune to which we just sang Katherine Lee Bates' poem.

But the song is about brotherhood in America. How does "motherly" apply?

This tune, boys and girls, was written by Samuel Ward—do you see the composer's name there at the right?—more than ten years before Miss Bates attended the Columbian Exposition for a translation of an old Latin hymn whose first word was *materna*. We do not sing the hymn nowadays, but about twenty years after she wrote her song Americans began to like it best of all the tunes composed to fit her 1910 version of it. Although *Materna* is a march and makes us reach high in the second and third lines, it will air "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" longer than you will live.

You probably noticed that I do not call the song "America the Beautiful"

or "America." There are two reasons. Hymnologists, men and women who know much about hymns, title every one by its opening verse; and this one begins, "O beautiful for spacious skies."

The other reason for not making it "America" as Katherine Lee Bates did is that most of us think of a much older song when we say that word. It is the hymn Sunday school boys and girls like you first sang in Park Street Congregational Church in Boston more than a century ago. That "America," just across the page, starts with "My country, 'tis of thee." Samuel Smith was only ten years older than some of you when he wrote "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" for the tune of the British national anthem, "God Save the King." In the United States we call the tune *America*, but Henry Carey would not have liked his air called by any other name than that you will find in all hymnals in Canada and elsewhere, *God Save the King*.

So when you open your hymnal to find a number you will look for the name of the hymn, its first line, and for the name of the tune printed with it; "making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (Ephesians 5:19).

II

What was one thing Paul told his friends? "Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart!" (Ephesians 5:19)

Last Sunday we sang a spiritual song which happened to be about our country although the tune *Materna* was about the heavenly land. Today shall we sing a psalm?

You may think that we cannot sing one because it is in the Bible. In the form here (holding a copy of the Scriptures) many churches chant *Psalms* as our choir does the 95th, the *Venite*, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord." One Sunday some of you sang part of the 150th Psalm to Cesar Franck's lovely tune (Edith L. Thomas), *The Whole World Singing*, "O Praise Ye the Lord!"

And the thoughts of these 150 Psalms have been rewritten in metrical versions. One such Psalm is William Kethe's "All People That on Earth Do

*Ascutney, Vermont.

Dwell." (Announce number.)

What Psalm do you suppose this is?

Let me give you the first line in the King James version, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

O that was your anthem this morning, wasn't it? (To Mr. Carl Mueller's lilting air published by Harold Flammer in 1935.)

And somebody has seen the name of the tune, *Old Hundredth*.

Can you guess what that name means?

If you notice the half line under it, you find that Loys Bourgeois composed it in Switzerland one, two three, *four* hundred years ago. That was not long after Martin Luther had started the Protestant Reformation over in Germany. And the French speaking Protestants in Geneva were putting *Psalms* into their poetry in order to sing Bible words. M. Bourgeois wrote this melody for the 134th Psalm. Some exiled pilgrims took this and other tunes back to England from Geneva, and this tune went with the old metricizing in English of the one hundredth psalm.

Listen to *Old Hundredth* while our minister of Christian music plays it. (Done, as Bourgeois printed it.)

Now let us stand and sing two stanzas of Kethe's version of Psalm 100 to Bourgeois' *Old Hundredth* as printed at No. 1, and try to feel how his melody makes you thrill with praises of the psalmist's heart. (Done.)

Have you sung the tune to other words before?

Just so, to the doxology, "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow" as the ushers take our Sunday offering to be dedicated to God. But Bourgeois probably would not believe you if he heard us using *Old Hundredth* because we sing it like this: (Organist plays it to quarter notes.)

It is not like the air at No. 1 here at all, is it? Why? Because the time, the beats, the rhythm have been so changed that it sounds just like a straight march, a rough-and-glum kind of tune: one two three four, one two three four.

In more and more churches now you will hear *Old Hundredth* with the lilt, varied pace, and richness with which M. Bourgeois composed it matching the spring and joy of the 100th Psalm. Not a plodding humdrum oldster; but a lively disciplined youth stepping out gladly, praising God.

Yes, "be filled with the Spirit, ad-dressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." (Ephesians 5:19)

III

In this trio of talks about the names

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we find over the hymn tunes we sing, we have used hymns written before you or I were born. Psalm 100 was lined in Hebrew before Jesus was born. In fact Jesus may have heard it chanted.

If he did not himself sing it, we know that he could have because the Gospels tell that on the night before he was nailed to the cross Jesus and the Apostles ate their Last Supper. "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (Mark 14:26). Their hymn was the five Psalms sung at Passover today by Jewish families, the Great Hallel (Songs of Praise), Psalms 114-118.

Paul, who was brought up to sing the Great Hallel at Passover too, urged the Ephesians to "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with all your heart." As we have already sung a spiritual song and a psalm, now we sing a new hymn. At least it was written since most of you teenagers were born: "Our Church Proclaims God's Love," No. 92. (Done.)

Certainly we must "be filled with the Spirit" to be party to Christ's church here.

But to think again about our music in worship, we wonder where this tune got its name. I don't know. The tune *Old Hundredth* was named for the English metrical version of the Psalm. *Materna* was named from the title of the Latin hymn for which it was written. *America* was the heading of the song to which some Sunday school

children sang it in Boston.

But how did *Truro* get printed over this melody? I can't find out. If Thomas Williams named it, it may have been for the town in which he was born or was then living. If another person titled it, it could have been the place in which *Psalmody Evangelica* was published or in which Mr. Williams died or is buried.

At the bottom of the page the editors of *Hymns for Junior Worship* say that Miss Niedermeyer's hymn can be sung to the air across the page. We know where this tune got its name. It is the street in Windle, England, on which John Hatton, its composer, lived.

I learned "Our Church Proclaims God's Love" with *Truro* and liked them. But if I had memorized it to *Duke St.*, I might prefer that combination.

We can read to ourselves the first stanza of the Niedermeyer hymn while our minister of music interprets *Duke St.* in the beautiful form in which the English Congregational hymnary points it. (Done.)

Did you feel how much richer the words "work and" sound to the dotted half note (C) and quarter (B^b)? Incidentally it matches the effective measure near the end, "glad thanks" and breaks the monotony of four equal notes (C B^b A^b G) doing nothing except sliding down the straight scale (la sol fa mi.)

I like *Truro* and *Duke St.* for "Our Church Proclaims God's Love," but *Truro* does not fit the feeling in "Jesus Shall Reign Where E'er the Sun." This

hymn is Isaac Watts' appreciation of the 72nd Psalm. One of the earliest missionary hymns.

When just the age of some of you, Isaac went to church with all the other Wattses but found the people's singing lifeless. The words of the Psalms were dull, and the tunes were duller. One Sunday after meeting when he complained of the disgraceful condition, his father said, "Why not write better ones then?"

Isaac did, and later this was a result.

Let us "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another" in this hymn, "singing and make melody to the Lord with all" our heart, with No. 91. (Done.)

Other tunes interesting children:
Hymn to Joy, title of hymn sung to it.

Terra Beata, Latinizing of the theme of the words sung to it.

Tours, Peek, Howard, composer's surname.

Dix, surname of the author of the Christian hymn to which it was first sung.

Austria, the name of the country for whose national anthem this is the tune.

Just As I Am, Dare to Be Brave, Nun Danket, opening phrase of the hymn for which the music was composed.

St. Catherine, the patron saint of the composer's order.

St. Anne, the composer's reigning queen.

An Outdoor Presentation

(From page 14)

And in a manger laid,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:
Addressed their joyful song.

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace:
Goodwill henceforth, from heaven to
men,
Begin and never cease,
Begin and never cease!"

Nahum Tate, 1703

(During the singing of this carol, the Iconophers place the figures of the shepherds in position. They are then illuminated.)

FROM THE TOWER: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (one verse)

HERALD ANGEL: The winged messengers spread the good news 'round the world and set high in the sky, a bright, burning star. The guiding star directed to the lowly stable, the feet of three mighty kings.

CHOIR:

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar



MURAL HIGHLIGHTS NEBRASKA CHURCH

A most effective mural painting of "The Last Supper" provides the center of worship in the new First Methodist Church, Blair, Nebraska. The mural was done by Vernon Bellows, Jr., twenty-six years old, who plans to give his life to religious murals. The pastor of the church is Homer L. Dickerson.

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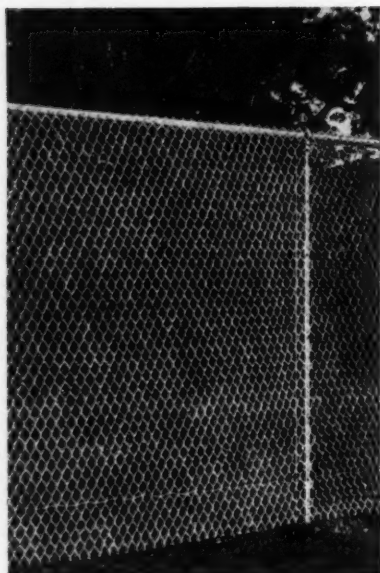
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Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light,

Solo I

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Solo II

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God on high.

Solo III

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume,
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!

Pearls through the earth and skies.

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1862

(As each king's solo is sung, the Iconophers place in position the corresponding figure. After all are in place with their camels, etc., they are illuminated.)

HERALD ANGEL: Thus good friends, the story is told. May these silent representations speak to you of that blessed event of long ago and give you pause for thanksgiving and prayer.

CHOIR:

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts, 1719

(During this carol, full illumination floods the creche and the figures.)

MINISTER: And now in the loving spirit of the first Christmas, we dismiss you. May you keep always in your hearts the love of Christ and of God, our Heavenly Father.

CHOIR AMEN

FROM THE TOWER: Christmas carols as the audience leaves.

The influence of a real Christian will not only pervade every aspect of life; it will change the nature and consistency of all life.

A Time Chart

(From page 11)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT LOCAL CHURCH

Study (includes sermon preparation, preparing for Bible school classes, and any professional reading directly related to sermons, teaching, etc. Does not include private devotions or study toward educational degree.)

Services Conducted and Teaching (includes Sunday church services, Bible school, confirmation classes conducted, and other services or classes within local church in which clergyman is major participant or director.)

Visitation (includes regular visits to sick, shut-ins, prospective or new members and families with special troubles. Does not include purely social calls or visits in connection with ministerial services otherwise accounted for.)

Meetings Attended (includes all meetings of local church organizations if regularly attended or if participating in program. Also special committee meetings attended as advisor or in other official capacity.)

Business and Clerical (includes time spent in planning for overall church program, finances, membership drives, etc. Also letters written and any other clerical duties performed in interest of local church.)

Ministerial Services (includes weddings, funerals, baptisms or christenings, and related visits, consultations, etc.)

Miscellaneous (includes any definitely church related activities which do not fit into any of the other categories.)

DENOMINATIONAL

Attendance at Conferences and Retreats Board and/or Committee Work

Writing (for or about the denomination.)

Miscellaneous (includes teaching at summer camps, etc.)

LOCAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL AND COMMUNITY

Ministerial Groups (includes meetings of professional nature and any preparation, study, planning, etc., that goes along with activities.)

Local Charities (includes activities only when they are related to religious activities or if time is spent in professional capacity as clergyman.)

Secular Meetings (includes civic and business men's gatherings only if attending in professional capacity to offer prayer, etc., or deliver message as representative of religion.)

INTERDENOMINATIONAL ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

(Includes conferences attended, time spent on offices held or writing done on a broad interdenominational level.)

That Man Rhee

(From page 12)

government officials and the ignorance and cowardice of the Korean people.

President Chester A. Arthur had said of the Korean treaty that "every clause and article must be observed and fulfilled by the United States and the citizens, thereof." But when the Koreans appealed asking that the American government keep its pledge there was nothing but evasiveness on the part of the American government. The United States Minister, E. V. Morgan, even refused to transmit a letter to the President of the United States when the emperor asked him to do so.

The United States pledge to Korea was not kept because the American government had been fascinated by the military power of Japan. President Theodore Roosevelt had signed a secret treaty with Japan by which the United States was to recognize the Japanese occupation of Korea and Japan was to recognize the American possession of the Philippine Islands. Morgan, minister to Korea, had been sent with instructions to let nothing prevent the accomplishment of the Japanese plan. Through Baron Kaneko, the president's personal friend and Japan's liaison man in America, the White House was in constant touch with Tokyo and gave the Japanese government friendly aid and advice.

To sum up the whole story Korea was raped because she put her trust in the word of a friendly nation rather than in arms. America coaxed Korea out of her isolation, promising to protect her. Then she led her to an enemy's camp and took part in the plot to murder her. Korea paid heavily for being a peace loving nation and putting her trust in the sanctity of international treaties.

With this picture in my mind I lose self-restraint when some one dubs me a militarist because I say that I will take up arms to fight for my country. Korea too late knows this is the only way for a nation to save itself.

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A JUNIOR SERMON FOR ADVENT

Being Friendly for Jesus

by Grover Wilson*

IN the days of Jesus, there was a powerful prophet of God named John. He lived away from the towns, out in the barren places near the main highway. He preached one great message, "Repent, and be baptized, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He was called John the Baptist. Many people heard him preach and were convinced by this man and repented, and were baptized, and tried to lead better lives.

Some people think that John was a cousin of Jesus. At least the men knew each other. One day Jesus was out hearing John preach. John was calling for repentance, as usual, and suddenly said: "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Jesus came up to John to be baptized, but John was hesitant about doing it because he knew Jesus was the one chosen of God, and John said, "Not me, for I need to be baptized of you." But Jesus insisted, and John baptized him. At that moment we are told the heavens opened up and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

Not long after that, John was arrested and thrown into jail. We do not hear much today of Christians having to go to jail for their faith, but many have done so down through the ages rather than give up their faith. Jesus heard that John was in jail and before he could go to visit him, John had sent some of his friends to ask Jesus about his work in life. John had heard of the healing and preaching of Jesus and he wanted to know if truly this was God's Son as he had hoped.

John's two friends asked Jesus, "Are you He who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Jesus did not give them a simple yes-no answer; but rather told them in a way that they would have to think about it and decide for themselves.

Jesus said, "Tell John that the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear,

*Assistant minister, The Huguenot Memorial Church, Pelham, New York.

and the dead are brought to life and the poor have good news preached to them."

This is the answer that Jesus gives us today. Only through Jesus will the blind of soul see, the lame of character walk, the lepers of sin become cleansed, the poor become rich with the Good News of God that happens in Jesus. We are told, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." This is a difficult saying for you right now, but you can understand much of its meaning.

1. We can remember the Christ way of life by praying our prayers regularly.
2. We can remember the Christ way of life by receiving one another in the brotherhood of man as Christ has received us. In other words, be friendly, because Jesus was first friendly to us.

This can encourage our thinking on this second Sunday in Advent about what Christmas means for you and me. This is a time of preparation not only in the giving of gifts, but of receiving a great spiritual gift from God. Two important parts of our preparation are to pray regularly and to be friendly as Jesus asks us to be.

The Christian Church

(From page 8)

the windows along each side of the sanctuary will have sand etched Christian symbols, telling the story of the Bible. Interior treatment of any sanctuary is the most critical of all areas. Being in California, this sanctuary will use redwood—natural for all wood finish surfaces—except the pews and the structure which will be stained to match redwood coloring.

The lecterns will be of a simplified traditional step-in type, using five sides and usual ornamentation. The flooring will be antique colored concrete, marked into 24-inch squares. The ceiling will be exposed sheathing, stained. The light fixtures will be individual, hung from one-quarter point of trusses, using a tall cylindrical satin finished aluminum metal with star perforations for added sparkle.

The building will be heated with cen-

trally located forced air with under floor duct system.

The front doors are to be designed of redwood planking. Exterior walls will be stucco and a wood shake roof.

The church is planned for small weddings with ample room for all phases of the service.

Utility is an important factor in this building and even though the seating capacity is not large for the building, beauty is emphasized while the program will be arranged to make it possible to have double services.

The minister's study will be simple with plaster sound-proofed walls, acoustic ceiling and cork floors. Lighting will be incandescent semi-direct.

The church parlor is going to be a center of activity and was therefore centrally located. The finish of this room will be casual, with emphasis on acoustical control, maintenance and pleasing colors. Floors of rubber tile and perforated cane-fibre acoustical tile will satisfy these problems. The fireplace will be of natural sandstone with no mantle or wood trim. Lighting in this area will be approximately 20 foot candles and will use concentric-ring semi-direct incandescent fixtures suspended from the ceiling. The interior doors will be solid panel. Windows will be steel casement with draw drapes—no venetian blinds or shades. This room will be a multi-use room and due to the numerous evening meetings will afford a pleasant atmosphere for Christian fellowship.


People in the congregation feel, that for a small church group, this proposed building seems destined to answer the present and immediate future needs to most everyone's liking.

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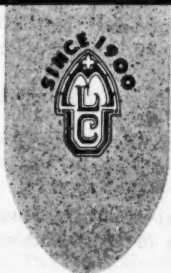
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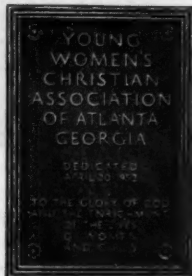
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Is Not This Joseph's Son?

*A Sermon by John W. McKelvey**

And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?—Luke 4:22.

I

The Uncommon Commonplace

CHRIST and Christmas are so taken for granted in all our adoration at this season of the year that we are liable to commit the most grievous of blunders, namely to overlook the uncommon commonplace significance of the Christmastide. For at Christmas we are celebrating the Advent of God's divine love in the rank and file of life. Christmas is the birthday of our Messiah and Saviour, and first and foremost it has to do with the incarnation of Jesus, "the Word made flesh," the fulfillment of the prophecy, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." Everything else related to Christmas, our over-emphasis on Santa Claus, our over-commercialization in connection with giving and receiving gifts, our increasing tendency to secularize the season altogether, all this is secondary and subordinate to the principal theme that climaxes the year, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Strangely enough, we overlook the pre-eminent message of Christmas and give attention, if not ascendancy, to the lesser and the secular aspects related to Christ's natal day. One journey about town will prove my point. Go to 69th Street or down Chestnut or up Market, and what do you see and hear? You will see elaborate decorations and you will hear Christmas carols. But the decorations are not adorning chapels or churches and the carols are not sounding from choir and pew. They are crudely and shamelessly being used to stimulate business and increase sales.

It is said when James Gordon Bennett, Jr., was guiding the destinies of the New York HERALD, he issued an edict that under no circumstances should the name "Herald" appear except in italics. One printer really showed his unflinching obedience to the order when, during the holiday season, he set up a Christmas program an-

nouncement with the following item: "Hark the Herald angels sing." In some such subtle and doubtless unintentional way we have meekly stood by and have allowed the secular world to take over Christmas and to crowd out the significant with the insignificant. It is as though with understatement, if not with scorn, we allow the world about us to pass Jesus by, saying disdainfully,

"Is not this Joseph's son? can he actually be the Anointed One, God's Chosen and Only-begotten Son, by whom the world will be redeemed?" And of course the answer is direct and unequivocal:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

II

The Unexpected Messiah

To all intents and purposes a new ideology is gradually getting a throttle hold on our generation insofar as celebrating Christmas is concerned. We definitely are shifting the spotlight of our attention from Joseph's Son to Santa Claus. Mark you, I am not against Santa Claus as long as Santa Claus remains as his prototype Saint Nicholas remained, an instrument of spreading Christmas joy and good will. But in our zeal to be hero-worshippers we have grossly undervalued the place of Christ and overdone the place of Santa Claus in this season of Advent.

We are so prone to err in this matter of hero-worship. Not long since the hero of thousands of people, one of the immortals of baseball, the great "Babe" Ruth passed to his reward. He was the undisputed idol of the American boy, not to mention the sport fans of the whole country.

A number of years ago, it is said, when Herbert Hoover, another great man of this generation, was in Los Angeles making an address, a small boy approached him after the ceremonies and asked for the great man's autograph.

"Would you mind giving me three?" the boy asked.

Mr. Hoover was glad to comply but he was curious to know why the boy wanted three.

"Because it takes two of yours to get one of Babe Ruth's," the boy replied.

*Minister, Lansdowne Methodist Church, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

But heroes like empires "have their day and cease to be," and it may not take long for this generation to discover which of these two men bulks larger in the retrospect of time. In any case the choice will reveal unwittingly the ideology that motivates us, the ideology of transient and temporal standards or the ideology of unchanging and eternal values.

Undoubtedly, if we will but give serious thought to it, we will assert the ideology of spiritual insights as against that of a degenerated sort of material "gimmies" when it comes to our choice between Christ and Santa Claus. I have great confidence to believe that we will appreciate Santa Claus vastly more if we pay homage to Joseph's Son and behold him for what he is, in the words of one of our poets, "the long-expected Jesus."

To many people it may appear that Joseph's Son is less important than Santa Claus in the observance of Christmas today, that indeed we can well afford to relegate Jesus to oblivion. But not so. The witness of the centuries says otherwise. The outcry of our own souls yearns for the deeper satisfactions which can be found only at the feet of him who did salvation bring. And so, instead of doubt and scorn as we come to celebrate Christ's Nativity, we will find trust and faith; instead of confusion, certitude; instead of the expectation of a lavish pile of gifts, the desire for abundant spiritual growth; instead of anticipation of might and power, expectation of love and mercy. Yea, this involves the meaning of Christmas and this is the burden of the gracious words which proceeded out of the mouth of Joseph's Son.

III

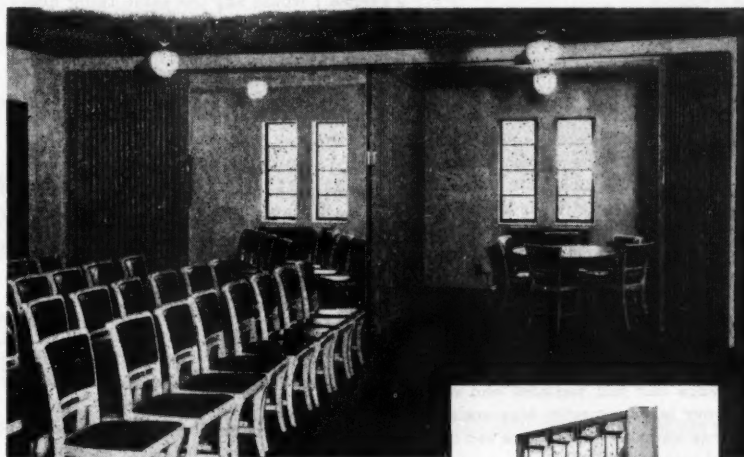
The Magic of Christmas

It is altogether uncanny that years have elapsed since V-J Day and yet peace and tranquility are as far removed as ever from the common lot of men. We are not much nearer that state of good will and brotherhood so rapturously depicted by the angel's song than before we attempted to clear the atmosphere with the thunder of battle and the lightning of bursting shell. The fact is we are coming up to this Christmas with a strange feeling of frustration and helplessness both for ourselves and the world about us. If we are not careful, according to the psychological laws of the mind, we are liable to do something both drastic and regrettable and in doing so bring further calamity upon our time.

What we need is not a fresh diversion amidst our confusion but an old-time conversion. The newspapers carried the

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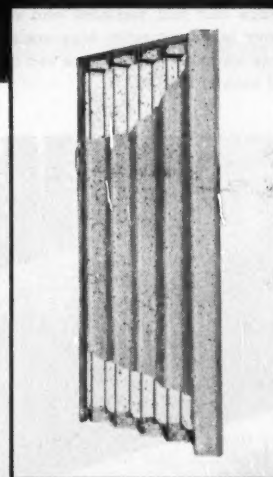


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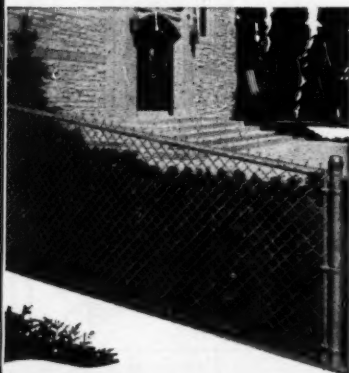
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story of a man in North Plainfield, New Jersey, who explained his strange conduct to doctors by saying that "he had shot himself in the stomach to take his mind off a toothache." Nothing so irrational is needed in order to recover for ourselves the peace and harmony so intrinsic to the message and significance of Christmas. What we need is simply to reconvert to the basic law of Christmas.

It is expressed in John 3:16: "For God so loved . . . that He gave . . ."

Of course, this secret of Christmas is so potent that we must be dead in earnest if we want to apply it. I read recently of a salesgirl at the perfume counter who said to a customer,

"Just a word of advice—don't use this stuff if you're bluffing."

And in an infinitely more profound sense I would say the same thing about the basic law of Christmas: Don't use this law unless you mean it.

How tremendous its wonder-working power really is, Frederick Hall has demonstrated in his story, *Still Through the Cloven Skies*, the wistful story of a GI celebrating Christmas in Germany. He and his buddy had managed to kill a deer. Now shooting a deer in the American Zone wasn't quite as bad as shooting a man but, it didn't pay to be found out in either case. They had dressed the deer and divided it in secrecy and this GI planned to carry his share of the spoil some fifty kilometers to a village, Hann Market, to what he called his "girl friend." Against the counsel of his commanding officer who feared reprisal he set out two days before Christmas and arrived at his destination without mishap, except that the latter part of his journey was completed amidst a wet, sticky snow storm. He was wet and cold, through and through, when he arrived at the door of Frau Koelling and when she pulled him inside with ecstatic joy she could talk of little else but how wet he was and how he'd catch his death of cold. It didn't take her long, this "girl friend," who looked more like something out of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, a rosy-cheeked smiling old woman, old enough to be his grandmother, to get the GI transferred from wet clothes to blankets and back to clothes pressed and spic and span again. And it didn't seem but a few moments until midnight had rolled around and Frau Koelling was showing him to his room.

When morning came he was awakened by the strains of Christmas carols rising from the street below his window. He hurried down to begin this gladdest of days and was greeted cordially but hesitatingly by his hostess. Frau Koelling didn't know just how

to say it, but she was wondering about all the meat he had brought her. She herself could not possibly eat all of it. Across the street was Frau Stading with her three children. Would it be all right—? Why certainly, the GI answered. Bring them over.

Needless to say it was a truly royal Christmas, with traditional tree and candles and with a feast fit for a king. Again the day raced past and it was midnight before they knew it.

Dropping off to sleep that night, all at once it came to this GI! In all his life this was the best Christmas he had ever had and he suddenly knew the reason why. He had grown up, and it was the first Christmas he had ever been on the giving end. "Those angels from the cloven skies that he'd seen in pictures and sung about had come bringing tidings of great joy . . . Well, he had come to Hann-Market bringing not great joy but at least some. Of course, he didn't receive any credit. He'd done it just for fun, but then—those angels," he said to himself, "I'll bet they enjoyed what they did too!"

In short, to be on the giving end is to know and experience with infinite joy the sublime secret of Christmas and to be among men as one who serves is to possess most truly the unspeakable gift, God's only begotten Son!

THE CHRISTIAN VOCATION

Whatever position a man or woman occupies should be one in which Christ is the Lord of life. A Christian cannot be a mere businessman; he cannot be a mere teacher; he cannot be a mere lawyer; he cannot be a mere doctor; he cannot be a mere carpenter. He must be a Christian businessman; he must be a Christian teacher; he must be a Christian lawyer; he must be a Christian doctor; he must be a Christian carpenter. Whatever his vocation may be, and whatever his sex, color or location, he must recognize, accept and practice the Lordship of Christ in respect to his calling. He must bring Christ to bear upon his life work. "The secular" does not exist in the life of the Christian. Everything is sacred.


—Charles J. Woodbridge and Harold Lindsell in *A Handbook of Christian Truth*. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

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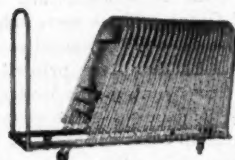
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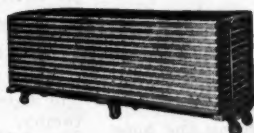
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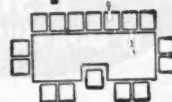
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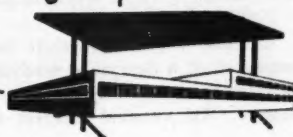
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FOR THE YOUNG ADULTS

Deck the Halls Party

by Marion C. H. Ebersole*

The following invitation is sent to each member of the Couples' Club:

Come, hang the greens and trim the tree,

And set the Christmas candles;
And carols sing of Wise-men three,
Of Shepherds in their sandals.

Come Friday night, and there we'll be
To help you in your task:

To hang the greens and trim the tree
For Christ's birthday, we ask.

Now take from us this little tip—

There'll be upon the table

A bite to eat, a drink to sip.

We hope that you'll be able!

Signed by

The minister and his wife

Friday night the crowd assembles at the church. They find a tree waiting to be set up, boxes of trimmings in the front pews, and baskets of greens to be hung. Upon arrival, everybody pitches in to work. Even though it takes several times as long to do the work as it would take any one couple alone. But there is ten times as much fun—for each ten couples present. Work is speeded at the last by the odor of coffee wafting in from the social rooms, where all finally gather around the

*Waubay, Wisconsin.

table for the bite to eat and the drink to sip—sandwiches, cookies and coffee.

When everybody has been sufficiently refreshed, the pastor suggests a return to the sanctuary for a final look and a song or two. A pianist has been coached. The three poems have been handed to three members, with a word of explanation, on the way in. So, quite informally the following little program is carried out:

CAROL: "Deck the Halls."

PRAYER: Dedicating the tree and greens.

POEM: "The Tree Speaks"—M. M. Genovese.

SONG: "O Christmas Tree" ("O Tannenbaum").

POEM: "Lights Upon My Tree"—Wm. Ludlum.

CAROL: "Good Christian Men Rejoice."

POEM: "What Christmas Does to Me"—A. G. Walton.

CAROL: "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen."

BENEDICTION.

After the benediction everybody leaves, deciding that a "Deck the Halls" party is lots of fun. (At least they did when we had such a party.)

Getting Advent into the Homes

THE Commission on Evangelism of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, in stressing the importance of observing the Advent season as a period of preparation and reflection, last year issued a booklet for use in family devotions. Entitled *A Family Altar for Advent* the purpose of the publication was set forth in the introduction thus:

The purpose of this Family Altar is to help the worshiper "know" God as a person, rather than understand God as an idea. It is our hope that those using it will be led into a two-way conversation, with God doing most of the talking through the Scriptures. The theme of these Scriptures, as you will soon note, is the Bible's constantly alternating word of warning and hope—judgment and grace.

Content of the worship pamphlet consisted of a Scripture reading and a prayer for each day of the Advent season. Of unusual interest was the

device whereby all members of the family were drawn into actual participation in the service. This was accomplished by inserting on perforated coupon pages Calls to Worship and Assurances of Grace. These were scheduled one for each week. Several copies of the same sentences were printed on the pages. This enabled the leader of the worship to tear out these coupons and pass them to other members of the circle for unison reading. An example is shown below:

Call to Worship and Assurance of Grace for the First Week in Advent

(Tear out along perforated lines and distribute to other members of the family. For group participation read The Call to Worship and The Assurance of Grace in unison).

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way,

and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and unto our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Amen. Isaiah 55:6-7

(Tear out along perforated lines)

THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. . . . Come, behold the work of the Lord. . . . Be still, and know that I am God. Amen. Psalms 46:1-2, 8, 10

As an example of how this worship program was given an excellent send-off by one of the denomination's member churches, let us tell you how the Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church of Schwenksville, Pennsylvania, cooperated with the commission.

Samuel A. Moyer, pastor of the church, sent out via the Sunday church school pupils an invitation to parents to come to a Family Fellowship Night the Friday previous to the First Sunday in Advent.

The evening began with a spaghetti supper at six o'clock. After the meal a fellowship program was held. In this program, carols were sung and the intent of the "Family Altar for Advent" booklet explained by the president of the Sunday Church School Workers, the superintendent of the Sunday church school and by the pastor. After this three-fold presentation, the service closed with this excellent dedicatory litany:

Litany of Personal Dedication

MINISTER: To the glory of God in the highest, to the honor and praise of Christ, our Savior, to the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit:

PEOPLE: We humbly dedicate ourselves.

MINISTER: That God's will may be done in us, and throughout the earth, and his kingdom be advanced by our united efforts:

PEOPLE: We dedicate our lives and our talents.

MINISTER: For the building of a better world in which justice, righteousness and peace shall receive their true regard, and brotherhood shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea:

PEOPLE: We dedicate our hearts, our minds, our strength.

MINISTER: That the Gospel of Christ may be made known to all nations and peoples as spiritual good news with redemptive power:

PEOPLE: We dedicate our labors and our prayers.

MINISTER: That we may be duly thankful to God for home, family,

friends and every good life, and that our homes may be the habitation of the Divine Spirit, bringing love, joy and peace to all therein:

PEOPLE: We dedicate our God given power of love.

MINISTER: That we may, with Thy help, restore to Christmas the religious aspect, that we may remember the Gift:

PEOPLE: We prayerfully dedicate our earnest endeavors.

Following this first service, on each Wednesday evening during the season, a mid-week Family Fellowship Service was held which re-emphasized the themes set forth in the worship booklet. These services culminated in a candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service.

Comments from the congregation and participating parents proved the worth of this excellent cooperative program between denominational headquarters and the local church.

NEW PRINCE, NEW POMP

Behold a silly tender Babe,
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies
Alas! a piteous sight.

The inns are full, no man will yield
This little pilgrim bed;
But forced He is with silly beasts
In crib to shroud his head,

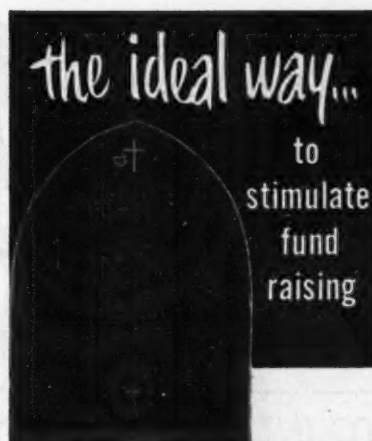
Despise Him not for lying there,
First what He is inquire;
An orient pearl is often found
In depth of dirty mire.

Weigh not His crib, His wooden dish,
Nor beast that by Him feed;
Weigh not His mother's poor attire,
Nor Joseph's simple weed.

This stable is a prince's court,
This crib His chair of state;
The beasts are parcel of His pomp,
The wooden dish His pate.
Robert Southwell,
(16th Century)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

We open here our treasures and our gifts;
And some of it is gold,
And some is frankincense,
And some is myrrh;
For some has come from plenty,
Some from joy,
And some from deepest sorrow of the soul.
But Thou, O God, dost know the gift is love,
Our pledge of peace, our promise of good will.
Accept the gift and all of life we bring.
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TO INTRODUCE THE NEW TRANSLATION

The Bible Speaks to Us Today

by Patty G. Sando*

Scene

At a table placed in the center of the stage Mrs. B. is seated working on a Women's Guild packet when Mrs. E. enters with two packages. They sit opposite each other so that the audience can hear them speak clearly. Door at back of platform is covered with black cloth and has the letters HOLY BIBLE RSV in gold. As each character is mentioned, she steps through the door, speaks, and leaves the stage through the same door.

Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Elizabethan English? We take it for granted today, and casually lay it aside, when through the years martyrs have given their lives so that we may all have one to read. Just think of the years so many people have devoted to this more authentic, revised version.

MRS. B.: Even more than that, think of the people whose lives are recorded in these pages.

MRS. E.: Yes, just the women. If our women would heed their message the Bible would really speak to us today.

(Soloist softly sings first verse of 256, "Lord Speak to Me," as the two

women leaf through the pages of the Bible they have now unwrapped.)

MRS. B.: Here is the Book of Ruth. What a fearless missionary she would make today. She was not afraid to leave familiar places to follow an ideal. Listen: (Ruth 1:16) "Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you: for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried."

(Ruth enters in costume through the open Bible, and when she speaks the two women turn in surprise to stare at her.)

RUTH: My friends, the Bible speaks to you today, through the spirit of our missionaries serving around the world. You have sent many new missionaries with the same fearless spirit bringing God's message to those who so desperately need it. You have, through your study of those at home and abroad, become more conscious of that need. Your monies have helped sustain them. And your prayers have helped those who were forced to flee from their Godless persecutors to return home safely. May God help all of us continue our missionary zeal.

(After her report, she steps back into the book.)

MRS. E.: And here in the book of Samuel is Hannah. She really knew the meaning of Thankoffering, didn't she. After God had granted her petition for a son, she decided to lend him to the Lord at the Temple, and then she offered her song of thankfulness. (I Samuel 1:27, 28; 2:1). "For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me my petition, which I made to him.

MRS. E.: Good morning. I met the mailman as I came in and he gave me these packages for you.

MRS. B.: Oh, I'm so excited. They are my copies of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible! Isn't it thrilling to think that all over the world there will be people just as anxious as I am to read it?

MRS. E.: "The Word of Life in Living Language" is the slogan they are using for its observance. It does seem to live as we read it now.

MRS. B.: And I like the theme for our Guild programs this year too, "The Bible Speaks to Us Today." This new version will surely help it to speak in the language of today.

MRS. E.: Did you ever stop to think of how wonderful our Bible is, coming to us through all these centuries, from



THE PAGEANT OF THE NEW REVISION
With variations it has been produced several times

*Bishop, Texas.

†Mrs. John H. Sando, whose husband is the minister of the Second Evangelical and Reformed Church, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord. My heart exults in the Lord."

HANNAH: My heart is full of Thanksgiving, but surely everyone of you who knows God's will has cause for rejoicing and thanksgiving today. "Thou crownest the year with goodness"—Giving thanks always unto God for all things is a good thing. Let us remember God the giver of all gifts, let us give him a portion of our blessings through Thankoffering.

MRS. B.: Esther! That fearless, self-sacrificing queen truly has the spirit of our Christian citizens today. Love of her God and her people made her patriotism of the sort we wish we all had when it comes to helping minority groups. I like the part when her foster father Mordecai tells her (4:14) "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such as this?"

ESTHER: Perhaps I seemed fearless to you, but more than that, I felt as if I were but the handmaid of God, not a queen, merely as an instrument to carry out his great plan. So do many of our women today feel, not only about minority groups but also concerning America's international responsibility. The price of liberty is still eternal vigilance, and because we are Christians, we are responsible for the human rights of all people. We must pray for peace with justice, and not become weary in well doing world service. These are indeed urgent times, and it behooves us to practice our motto, "The Christian Citizen is the Good Samaritan Plus."

MRS. E.: The New Testament is more familiar to me in the new version. I have enjoyed using it so much. I enjoy the stories of the women who helped Peter and Paul in the new church. Here in the ninth chapter of Acts it tells about the disciple Dorcas, who was "full of good works and acts of charity." What an ideal she sets for our social service chairmen!

DORCAS: Yes, I made many garments for the poor widows of Joppa, as they told my friend Peter. But many of you have done much more than that when you have sent Remnants for Refugees, layettes, pre-school packages, and many pounds of clothing to Church World Service this year. Next year you will be packing "Bundles for Anothers Mother" and "Buying a Share" in India, Germany, Korea, Greece, Palestine, Turkey and Pakistan. May we always remember that our God is a God of love. May we stretch out our hands in fellowship, sympathy and love across frontiers, lands and seas, with a never ending zeal. May we unite in the service of healing the broken world, helping to bear one another's burdens,



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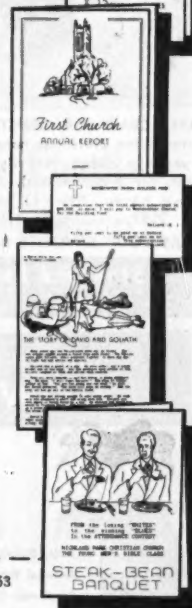
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MRS. B.: Don't you like the stewardship of Lydia? In Acts 16:14 it says, "One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of the purple goods, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul." Her zeal was untiring, and we hear of various ways that she used her money, time and talents to God's work.

LYDIA: When the Lord opened my heart to give heed to Paul, I could do nothing else but give myself to his work. But so many other consecrated women through the centuries have sought work for their Lord, and having found it, they did it with all their might. They have ordered their lives wisely in order to have time to work for others, and they have given generously from the heart, knowing that our Lord was often dependent upon generous women who ministered unto him. True stewardship requires some sacrifice a repentant heart, right living, obedience, service, dedication—but it should be a joyous offering, far outweighed by the gains and joys of service.

MRS. E.: And where else can we find any better example of the results of education than in II Timothy 5, when Paul writes: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and now I am sure dwells in you." True, her husband was a Greek, but Timothy was given careful religious instruction from his devout Jewish mother and grandmother. She was more than a teacher and parent, she was so full of the love of God that her son Timothy became the beloved follower of Paul.

EUNICE: It is true that we need to teach the young, but there are many of us today, who need to learn again of God's love through good reading. Our Messenger acquaints us with the accomplishments of our own church; our study books inform us of the work the Christian church is doing for underprivileged and forgotten people, both nationally and internationally; our devotional books provide us with the inspiration so necessary in doing God's work. And let us not forget our youth, and the faith we must have in them and their future, even as I had in Timothy.

MRS. B.: And don't you love the story of Priscilla, who took the new member, a Jew named Appollos, and, as it is written in Acts 18:26, "expounded to him the way of God more accurately?" She would have been a good membership chairman, wouldn't she?

PRISCILLA: I was fired with a zeal not only to teach the members the way of the Lord, but with a desire to win many new converts to his kingdom. During this coming year and in future ones, you too should remember the main emphasis of the membership department should be to keep before the guilds their most sacred obligation: PERSONS. Surely, you are happy to have reported four new guilds, an increase of over seven hundred women participating in one or more of the guild activities, and also an increase in the average attendance at the guild meetings. But, these are only incidental to our first concern; "the women of the church." We must see that this is not neglected; we must ever keep before the local guilds the membership goal, "A place for every woman and every woman in her place" and help them plan to make it a reality. May God instill within you too, that joy and peace that only he can give, so that we may all worthily serve him.

MRS. E.: Yes, all of these women had burning within them the love of God, about which they could not remain quiet. But the most revered of all was Mary, who, through her own spiritual life, helped to mold Jesus. We read of Mary when we read, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

MARY: You read in Luke how I kept all of his sayings in my heart. If everyone in the world today would keep his sayings in their hearts, and pray, what a different world this would be. All the ills and troubles of the world are the result of not keeping and obeying his sayings and teachings. Only the mind and Spirit of Christ in our hearts are adequate to solve our personal and our world problems.

MRS. B.: I feel as if the Bible has spoken to us today—if only we will listen.

MRS. E.: "The Word of Life in Living Language" became a reality. May God grant that his spirit is in each of our hearts, as we silently meditate on his word.

SOLO: "O Living Word."

(Women take attitude of prayer. After solo, quietly walk off of stage.)

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TRY SOMETHING A New Monthly Feature

By W. Howard Lee*

A Church Service on Christmas Day

HAVE you avoided a church service on Christmas Day? Most churches do. The excuse generally is that, like Thanksgiving, people are busy in their homes with company, presents, and preparations for the big dinner. So most Christmas services are held on Christmas Eve or the Sunday night preceding Christmas.

For several years I had been a little disturbed at having to say, "No, no service on Christmas Day," when someone would phone to ask. So, we decided to venture a chapel service of worship at 10 o'clock on Christmas morning. The usual publicity announcements were made, nothing more.

Naturally, I faced the hour with some misgivings, really expecting a prayer meeting turnout. I was amazed to see the chapel seats begin to fill. The people who came were mostly the ones we forget on Christmas: guests in hotels, lonely ones from rooming houses, and visitors from other churches. Besides there were a few of our families united only at Christmas who welcomed this opportunity to go up to the House of God together. By the time the last bell rang almost every seat was taken.

One of our families welcomed a grandson for his first Christmas in the family circle; they asked to have him baptized at this service. It made a touching climax to the simple service of Christmas worship composed of the old familiar carols, Scripture readings, prayers and a brief meditation.

It was plain from the earnestness of the thanks and expressions of hope for a similar service next year that we had filled a very real need. You may be sure that hereafter the service on Christmas Day will be a regular feature of our holiday observances.

*Minister, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Saint Augustine, Florida.

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By NORMAN L. RICHARDSON

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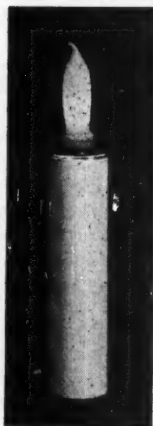
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PRIMING THE PARSON'S PUMP

Edited by David A. MacLennan*

HOW'S your Logopedics? or, rather, how are you in Logopedics? You never heard of it? You detect no symptoms yet? I never heard of it until an advertisement appeared in an August issue of a pungent Canadian weekly, *Saturday Night*. A South African university advertised for a senior lecturer in "Logopedics," Minimum qualifications for the position is a Ph.D. in Logopedics. As the trapper who had been bushed for several years in the sub-Arctic remarked when he used the telephone on one of his rare visits to the trading post, what will they think of next? Dictionaries don't help much in defining the word. From its roots you might think it means "the kicking around of words," and Webster knows we do that enough. A speech expert came to the rescue. Logopedics, he volunteered, is also known as Lalopathology, has to do with teaching people how to speak properly—"correcting difficulties in speech, removing word blocks, and so on." Then I learned that among others, the University of Iowa gives a course leading to a degree in Logopedics. Humiliating to admit that one can live in the Ivy League and be ignorant. I resist any temptation to excoriate ourselves as speakers for doing what the obvious and incorrect meaning of the term suggest—kicking words around. Much of the world's trouble comes from widespread and sometimes malicious abuse of great words—freedom, democracy, faith, love, and others.

But November reminds us of one noble word which comes in for considerable punishment, either from glib use or neglect of it—thanks. This month of frost on the pumpkin (in the northeast), of football finals, feasting and its aftermath of flatulence, comes to a peak with our most American festival, Thanksgiving. It is not only our uniquely American contribution to the civil and Christian year's celebrations, it expresses the most characteristic note of Christian prayer and devotion. Dr. Arthur John Gossip in his golden manual on the devotional life, *In the Secret Place of the Most High* (Scribner's), has a chapter on this theme in which he makes a convincing and eloquent case for giving thanks—

*Professor of Preaching & Pastoral Care, Yale University Divinity School.



DAVID A. MacLENNAN

giving the chief place on the list. Saints and liturgical scholars might demur; adoration being considered by them as the highest form of prayer and spiritual activity. Yet who is moved to adore who knows not the emotion of gratitude? "Thanks be to thee for thine unspeakable gift!" exclaims the adoring recipient to the divine Giver. G. K. Chesterton, writing of St. Francis of Assisi put it succinctly: "The great painter boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks." Certainly in more than one language "think" and "thank" are closely related. There may be a germinal idea for a sermon in that kinship.

November's last Sunday marks the first Sunday in Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of the Lord. We will discuss preaching possibilities in that period, but first to our Thanksgiving Day and Thanksgiving Sunday messages.

SERMON SEEDS

Every sermon should begin, continue and end in prayer. Here is a contemporary Church of Scotland prayer before the sermon, usually designated as the prayer for illumination. (Many beside John Calvin's spiritual descendants

offer a brief petition aloud immediately preceding the sermon.)

Almighty God, who hast given us the fruits of the earth in their season; keep us ever mindful that thou hast given us also the spiritual food of thy word. Grant us now and always to receive it in humble faith, that our souls may be nourished unto life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. *The Shortest Way to Happiness.* A topic such as this should have reader-appeal. Who does not want to be happy, even when moralists condemn the quest? John Q. Citizen and his wife and children look up into the face of the sky and ask, sometimes petulantly, sometimes defiantly, often beseechingly, "Please, may we enjoy life?" Devious are the routes explored, and not a few prove to be dead ends. Your introduction may acknowledge the ceaseless search, the main trails followed by twentieth century travelers eager to enjoy what the founding fathers claimed to be one of man's inalienable rights, the pursuit of happiness.

What is the shortest, surest route? Two centuries ago a wise and good Englishman gave a direction which surprises us. It occurs in the classic he bequeathed to the race, the book with a forbidding title: *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. (John Wesley acknowledged his indebtedness to this book, saying that it sowed the seed of Methodism.) Here is William Law's answer to our question, what is the shortest way to happiness?

If anyone tell you the shortest, surest way to all happiness and all perfection, he must tell you to make a rule to yourself to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing.

However naive and absurd we think that claim may be, we must admit it is on the main line of the New Testament emphasis, and of the Old Testament too when the latter reports its most spiritual insights. Here is the apostle Paul, writing to Thessalonian Christians (I Thessalonians 5:18): "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you." The RSV puts it tersely: "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Here is a text for the sermon. My choice of

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for the Christmas Season



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No. 789 (pictured)

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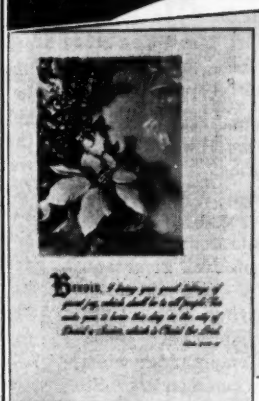
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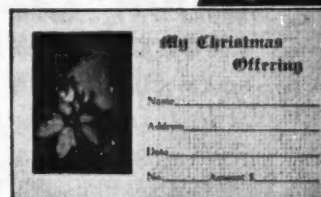


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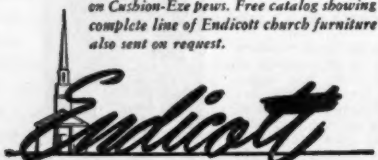
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translation would be that of Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed: "Give thanks whatever happens. For this is what God through Jesus Christ wants you to do."

You have your theme, a text, and a clue as to the introduction. What of the plan, the outline? How will you "structure" it? (I too have surrendered to our habit of corrupting good words by making them verbs; at least I don't use "finalize" in public!)

1. One point around which you and your people could walk would be that raised by the question, Is this not too simple a rule for happiness? How can any rational person, realistically aware of the tragedies and frustrations, the ills and accidents of life "give thanks whatever happens"? Why should he? How can thanksgiving in unpleasant situations issue in happiness? What is the alternative? Complaining, whimpering, whining is a common one. Stoical endurance of what can't be cured is a less frequent attitude. But what if the saints were right? What if much misery derives from loitering on what John Bunyan called Forgetful Green? That particular spot, you recall, is close to the Valley of Humiliation. Christian had his critical struggle with Apollyon "in a narrow passage, just beyond Forgetful Green." "And indeed," said Greatheart to Christian's son as he described the battle, "that place is the most dangerous place in all these parts. For if at any time the pilgrims meet with any brunt, it is when they forget what favors they have received, and how unworthy they are of them."

That foe of sin and friend of sinners, the famous Edinburgh divine Alexander Whyte, once visited a woman of his parish. She delivered to her minister a long litany of woe, and a bill of complaints, with all and sundry the targets. Dr. Whyte listened patiently, attentively to the end. Doubtless some of the charges made by the disgruntled soul were justified. As he prepared to leave her home, he prescribed the treatment: "Mind you," he said, "Forget not all his benefits." Being a Scots Presbyterian of that particular generation it is likely the good woman could complete the quotation, "forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thy sins, and healeth all thine infirmities; who saveth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with mercy and loving kindness . . ." Here then is your second emphasis, accenting the positive:

2. When beset by despondencies follow this rule of the road: take a walk among your mercies. Very exceptional is the person who tries this exercise and does not find that blessings outnumber their opposite. There are nettles everywhere,

But tall green grasses are more common still,
The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.

If you reflect and recollect, you will find yourself moving on the road to happiness. Crossing the U. S.-Canadian border every traveler hears a question invariably asked on one side or the other by a customs' official: "Have you anything to declare?" Well, have we? Is there nothing in our mental and spiritual luggage to declare with thanksgiving? Robert Louis Stevenson was certain that "the man who has forgotten to be thankful has fallen asleep in life."

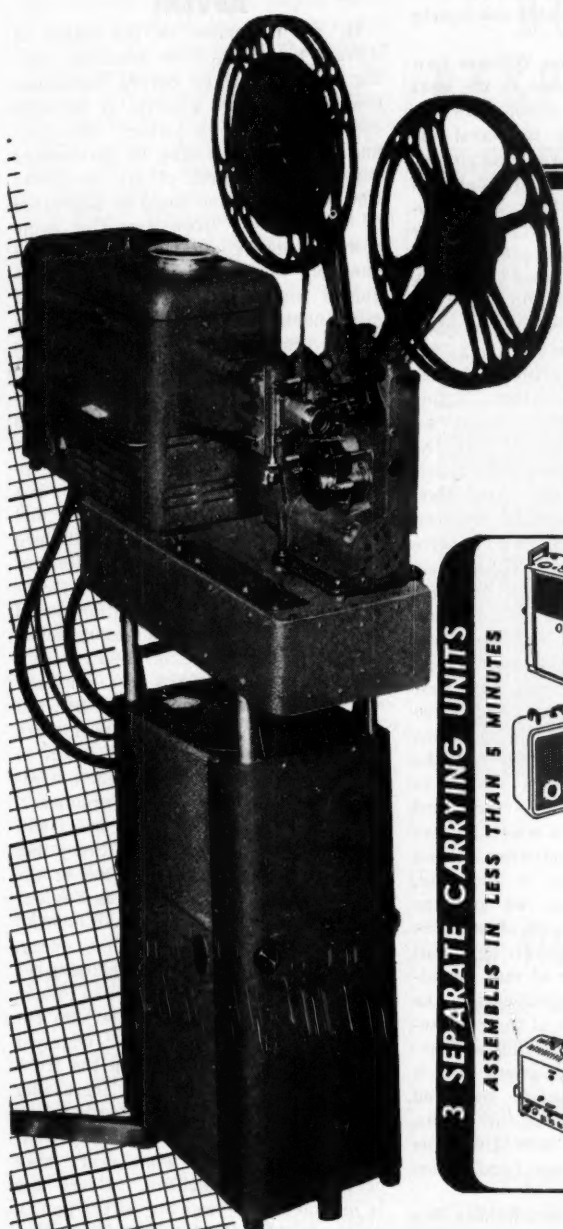
Which reminds us of the high school commencement speaker who awakened his audience by saying that the worst "ism" prevalent among us is not communism, or fascism, but somnambulism. People who walk around in their sleep, not knowing what it is all about, and not caring; these are subversive of the nation's spiritual welfare including their own.

"Have you anything to declare" — gratefully?

Here would be the place in which to indicate a few of "all the blessings of this life"—the old sweet fashions of nature, seedtime, summer and harvest, "purple mountain majesty" and tawny prairies; for a land where, despite self-appointed guardians and censors of conscience and thought, freedom and justice and everyone's security are real and regnant; home love and life, and the companionship of friends; work, if it is socially useful and satisfying; children with their needs and promise. It all sounds positively lyrical, snorts the cynic. And is there no place for a lyrical interlude amid the strident sounds of the world's miserere? Can we not thank God also for life in this era, of volcanic change and yet of creative change also? Polycarp, Christian martyr of the year 156, exclaimed, "My God! in what a century you have caused me to live!" We too can make that cry ours, without recoiling in horror or slithering in self-pity. "Now God be thanked who matched us with this hour!" shouted a young poet in the midst of world war.

Should we not thank God for life in the midst of the unending war against the anarchy of the Night—with a chance to join the ranks of those determined to defeat hunger and disease, hatred, fear and injustice? And what of our great and gracious God? "In everything" there is his love and purpose, his mighty acts of redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Have you anything to declare?" What of the worldwide Church, of its rediscovery as the great new fact of our time? Who can

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exhaust the list of what we can and should declare "with humble and hearty thanks"?

3. But this is not what William Law had in mind. So we come to the next point. Our spiritual director in his famous book said that to travel the "shortest, surest way to all happiness" we must "make it a rule to thank and praise God for everything that happens to us." For everything? For broken hopes that are our pillows some nights? For little crosses which mark the graves of our dearest? For the disasters of life? Yes, insist the masters of the art of Christian living; for everything, and in everything. Praise and service are great healers. Is this impossibly high? Perhaps, until we come across a man praying with the shadow of a cross enveloping his kneeling figure. "At that time," says Matthew (11:25), when many of his own people had rejected him, when he foresaw the ruin inevitably following their disobedience to God's purpose; "at that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to babes." And when the hounds of hell were yelping at his heels, and death on the Cross now the only way to fulfill God's design in man's dreadful disorder—"the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "Take, eat." Ever since we call the observance of that supper of sacrifice the eucharist, the thanksgiving. Will you ever forget hearing of that incredibly heroic family of missionaries, the Lees of India? When six of their household were buried in a landslide at Darjeeling they built a monument. On it the parents so desperately bereaved inscribed the New Testament words, "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We have a duty of thankfulness. We have so much to declare. But only God himself can give us the grace to be thankful in everything, in all circumstances. This grace he furnishes, exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think; and we must take it and use it. Such gracious thankfulness may even bring other wounded back to life's front-line again, healed, fortified, and eager to do their part in the great cause.

Is there something here which pagans and pessimists never know? Let them take the long road, and we'll take the short road. It is entirely possible we'll be in heaven before them, for have we not high authority for believing the kingdom of heaven is within us?

ADVENT

II. On November 29, the season of Advent begins. Advent connotes coming. Four Sundays before Christmas could be used for a series of sermons on God's advent in history, both B.C. and when in Palestine he intersected time with the birth of his son Jesus Christ. One sermon could be addressed to the question, "How does God come now?" Another might bravely face the question to which sincere but misguided people give dogmatic and precise answers which have no warrant in the Church's faith: "When will he come again?" A former Presbyterian moderator was asked by one of his parishioners why he never preached on the Second Coming. He replied, "because so many people don't seem to have heard of the first coming!" Yet there may be in our community and congregation those who would be helped by an honest, reverent exposition of the Church's faith concerning the Second Coming. Such an exposition would have in it both Christian agnosticism concerning the last things, and reverent affirmation that "times and seasons" are God's business and knowledge, not ours. Among the certainties of faith are these: that Christ came again in the Holy Spirit (see the Fourth Gospel's statement of Jesus' promises), that he comes where "meek souls will receive him," that he comes every day in judgment and in mercy, that at the end of history he will come as Saviour and Judge. Such a sermon will not fail to confront us with the searching query, What must we do in the light of this? Once in Advent, I boldly chose to preach on a theme dear to our forefathers but on which I had been silent, "Judgment Day." Without spiritualizing the truth away, and I trust without increasing unduly what the psychologists call conscience-distress, I tried to say what the faith held, and what every man could and should believe. "Every day is judgment day" was one of the points, as it should be. Always in preaching such themes we must preach tenderly.

An effective verse on one aspect of our Lord's second coming is G. A. Studdert-Kennedy's "Then Will He Come." It is included in *The Unutterable Beauty and Other Poems*, and also in Harper's volume, *The Best of Studdert-Kennedy*. Much current theological discussion revolves around a new interpretation of the cosmic drama's last act. "Realized eschatology" is a phrase much heard among theological students.

A series of Advent sermons announced by Dr. Emlyn Davies, Yorkminster Baptist Church, Toronto, is entitled "A Month With Jesus Christ." When many

contemporary Protestant pulpits reflect the secularized, diluted religiousness of the times, the promise of that title is almost novel as well as inviting! Dr. Davies' sermon subjects are "Christ—the Saviour"; "Christ—the Judge"; "Christ—the Lord"; "Christ—the King"; "He Is Born" (Dec. 20); and on December's last Sunday, "He Goes His Way," "Unto him be glory and honor, dominion and majesty." Like the majority of his Canadian brethren, Dr. Davies preaches twice each Sunday.

Other Thanksgiving Sermon Texts

Psalm 116: 7, 8, 17 provides basis, background and specific reasons for gratitude. A title might be that of the invitation I once saw on an old country roadside bench: "Rest and Be Thankful." Luke's account of Jesus and the ten lepers could be used for a message on our common failing—of taking so much and so many for granted. A brilliant English lay-preacher once preached on what he called "Holy Harvest." He used the unusual text of I Samuel 6:13. Farmers and city-dwellers alike would be struck with its apposite and picturesque quality. Don't overlook "they of Bethshemesh reaping their wheat harvest!" Once I used two texts from the Psalms, Psalm 78:19 and Psalm 23:5: "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?"—"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Imaginatively reconstruct the setting and the mood of the people to which the writer of Psalm 78 transmitted his word of God.

PARSON'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

Have you ever wished that exponents of ecumenicity would dig more at the grass-roots, fill in the task of the local congregation within the worldwide fellowship of the church? that theologians who rightly emphasize the centrality of the church within the Faith of Christians could "spell it out" for everyday use by parish ministers and their flocks? A British pastor, Paul Rowntree Clifford, for the past ten years senior minister—or as his English designation has it, superintendent—of West Ham Central Mission in London's East End, has done this for you. *The Mission of the Local Church*, a recent publication of the SCM Press, Ltd., 56 Bloomsbury St., London, and with an American edition now available, faces the question of the church's mission in its local setting. "Our faith has to be expressed in terms of local situations and it is in a particular church in a particular town or village that our Christian life is nourished," is an underlying conviction of his treatment. Unlike our North American discussions of a city or rural church, much

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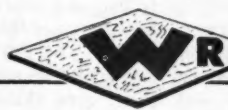
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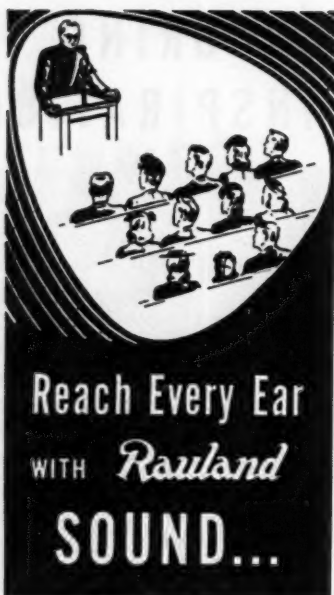
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of Mr. Clifford's penetrating analysis and suggested program is theological. After three opening chapters dealing with theological questions, he faces the primary business of the church worship. Here his conclusions are sound and his opinions stimulating. Section II is devoted to the Sacraments, and his frank facing of the different views held by Protestants is refreshing and informative. Sections V, VI, and VII have as their respective themes, The Church and the Community, The Church and the Family, The Wider Fellowship. For a book of only 120 pages, it is unusually complete. True, the perspective of a British churchman differs from ours, but the differences are surprisingly minor. Such a book will not replace our American books with their sociological approach (cf. Leiffer's *The Effective City Church*) but its theological and practical insights furnish corrective and supplement and make it eminently worth reading. A Baptist denominationally, Mr. Clifford is first of all a Christian thinker and minister with an informed mind, a sound working theology, an ardent evangelical faith, and an unshakeable love of Christ and his church. This book was a happy choice of the S.C.M. Book Club, whose members obtain it in unpretentious binding for a fraction of the retail edition's cost. If I may give this unsolicited testimonial to this book club, it is because since its inception before World War II, I have been an enthusiastic subscriber. American agent is the S.C.H. Book Club, 81 West Van Buren Street, Chicago 5, Illinois.

NOTABLE QUOTES

On the Sermon on the Mount: "If Christ's commands are laws . . . who is sufficient for them? No anger, no lust, no swearing, no retaliation—who can rise to the height of these demands? If our salvation depends on our perfect keeping of these 'laws,' we are all doomed to be damned, and Christ is laying on his disciples a burden far heavier than the scribes and Pharisees did on theirs. This cannot be legislation. To be sure, this is how God intends men to live; but though all who call themselves Christ's disciples must try to live according to this pattern, none of us who live in a fallen world dare claim, 'all these have I kept.' More clearly than any other part of the Sermon, these verses (Matthew 5:21-48) at once declare the Christian moral ideal and convict us of our sin. We may, with Paul, give thanks to God that we are saved not by law but by grace."—A. M. Hunter in *The Pattern for Life*; Westminster Press.

"My only excuse for writing is affection for words, and affection is not the same as knowledge. . . . A poet who writes of daffodils is not compelled to be a botanical pundit. I agree with some lines of Edward Thomas on words:

You are light as dreams,
Tough as oak,
Precious as gold,
As poppies and corn,
Or an old cloak."

—Ivor Brown, author of *The Ivor Brown Word Books*, in his recently published *A Word in Edgeways*; Jonathan Cape, London.

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When Andrew Melville, an early Scottish reformer, was threatened by the Earl of Morton for his stubborn resistance to an unjust edict, he said, "Tush, sir, threaten your courtiers after that manner. It is the same to me whether I rot in the air or in the ground. It will not be in your power to hang or exile truth."

"Those who speak about worship as a private experience and say that they can dispense with the worship of the church, are on the high road to idolatry. The claim to be able to worship God in the open air, or on the loneliness of a hilltop or down some quiet country lane, is usually to confuse moments in which the beauties of nature are enjoyed with the disciplined self-offering to the God who created it all. Those who come to terms with God in Christ cannot be satisfied with this spurious worship. . . . The usual end of this is the projection of man into the idea of God—the worst form of idolatry; for nothing can be worse than the worship of oneself, and this so easily happens when the discipline of Christian faith and Christian worship is lost."—Paul Rowntree Clifford in *The Mission of the Local Church* p. 36.

JEST FOR THE PARSON

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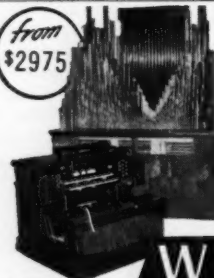
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not all in churches! Witness this un-
doubtedly apocryphal incident: A sena-
tor, chairman of a committee charged
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tions, recently met a member of the
United Nations' "Unesco" (United Na-
tions' Educational, Social and Cultural
Organization). "Senator," said the
mutual acquaintance, introducing his
guest, "I wish to present Mr. —,
who represents Unesco." Heartily the
solon approached the visitor with out-
stretched hand and beaming counten-
ance: "Sir," he said, "I surely am glad
to take your hand. I have long admired
your gallant little country!"

The Church and the Corrective Institutions

For some years George Stoll, retired Louis-
ville, Kentucky, industrialist, has headed
the Committee on Institutions of the Coun-
cil of Churches of that city. He has or-
ganized 200 representatives of the Council
in an energetic committee to study the
institutions of that city and county, and
help them serve the less fortunate in the
spirit of Jesus Christ. At our request,
Mr. Stoll will contribute a brief item each
month, offering one definite suggestion in
which men's groups may definitely serve
their community.

BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?*

LET'S agree that four or five men
each from four or five churches
in a neighborhood do get together
monthly. We aren't penologists or
sociologists. We've been used to going
to church and hearing a good man
preach good sermons. Running institu-
tions is a job for experts—career men
at least. You know how pathetic it is
when well-meaning friends make sug-
gestions about your business. What
can you do? What has been done?

Let's see what has been done. Since
the Louisville plan has been used in
other cities, let's draw on various places
to conceal locations.

In a woman's prison, women were
idle and unhappy. A group of men got
an idea. Of course, the men were
studying the problem when they got
the idea. That's how ideas happen. But
the men went downtown and got some
bolts of cloth donated by wholesalers.
(It was slow moving stock). They ob-
tained some second-hand sewing ma-
chines inexpensively, and some thread
and other accessories. You see, some
of those women in that prison were
mothers. They had children at home.
Someone on the staff may have helped
teach them how to sew—I don't know

all the details. But those women made
some new clothes for their children.
And it made a new attitude for the
women. Then some of the women who
weren't mothers wanted to make
clothes for nephews and nieces. And
they did it. They made some for
Christmas presents. By the way, Good-
speed translates Matthew 25:36 "When
I had no clothes you gave me clothes."
It would be well to read right here
Matthew 25. And whatever transla-
tion you read, remember the real job
is to translate it into life.

In another prison there was com-
plaint about food. The prison author-
ities were happy to have a committee
man bring out one of the city's best
cafeteria men, an expert who does know
a lot about food. He made some helpful
suggestions on preparation but said
those men ought to have more vita-
mins. "You ought to get more from
your own farm," he said. So a mem-
ber of the committee sought out a re-
tired, successful farmer. When the
prison farm manager found he could
have the service of the money-making
successful farmer free, he was
pleased. You see, farming was what
he planned to do in life. How much
better it was to have the coaching of
this man than to have criticism in
public press. Well, in a few years that
farm which had been producing 37%
of the prison's food, raised 67%. Re-
member, the prison people did it—we
just supplied a fine Christian coach. "I
was hungry and ye fed me."

The man in charge of institutional
education was a good man—not just
because he had his doctor's degree—
and he was doing a good job. But good
men like help. Whether to back him
up or help solve problems I don't
know. I've wondered. But at the uni-
versity an excellent professor of edu-
cation gladly agreed to consult free.
Making the educational program really
help the prisoner is no small task.

Then an Associated Press man came
and helped on the prison paper. And,
perhaps the next to greatest service of
all, the committee arranged to get a
trained chaplain—a man who could not
only preach, but listen and counsel. In
a similar way group counseling has
been encouraged—done by the prison
people. Speakers have been taken to
the prison, men with a message. Men
seeking parole have been helped to ob-
tain suitable jobs. However, the great-
est service rendered has been just back-
ing up the prison officials. When an
administrator has to be defensive and
fearful he can't do his best work. He
needs intelligent support. And to give
intelligent support we must give some
serious study. That's why it must be

*For detailed information on the prison work
of Mr. Stoll's committee send twenty-five cents to
"Church Management" for the booklet, "The Lay-
man Helps the Warden."

preceded by the committee meetings where men bring experts, review books, write papers and go around the circle (as Plato's *Symposium* puts it) "each of us in turn going from left to right shall make a speech in honor of love. Let him give us the best which he can and Phiedrus, because he is sitting first on the left hand and because he is the father of the thought shall begin."

We honor the Greek philosophers. Why not use their methods? We claim to follow Christ. Why not do what he commands?

A Christmas Trinity

By Endora Groves Russell*

HOME

We like to drive past houses
With lights of Christmas bright;
They look so snug and cozy
In the clear December night;
They're lovely in the tropics
Or where the snow is white.

We hope they're full of gladness,
And love and sharing too;
We hope they read the old story
And feel its joy anew;
We hope the Christ Child's in them;
And Christmas meaning true.

CHURCH

The wisemen were guided by the light
of a star,
And traveled by faith their journey
afar.
Let our churches be beacons in the
darkness today
That guide men to Jesus at home or
away.

The shepherds were told the message
of joy:
To Mary was born a dear baby boy.
There are many today, who still have
not heard,
The church must proclaim this glorious
word.

FAMILY

We light the Christmas candle,
Of Bethlehem we sing;
We read the wondrous story
Of the birthday of a king;
We close the Bible gently
And each child says a prayer,
We're glad for one another
And feel that God is there.

We think of another family—
A gentle man and mild,
And Mary sweetly smiling
Upon the new born child;
There was happiness in the stable
For God was very near;
Yes, Christmas is for families
In Bethlehem and here.

*Mrs. A. J. Russell, whose husband is the minister of the Central Christian Church, Brownsville, Texas.

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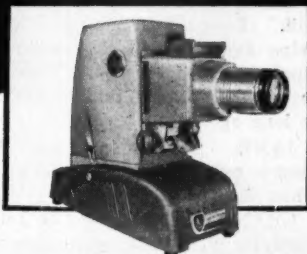
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WITH MUSIC AND TABLEAUX

The Christmas Story

by Lilian Doyle Sittler*

Tableaux have been a traditional and profitable method of extending religious truth for generations. To the silent tableaux Mrs. Sittler has added speaking lines which give unusual effectiveness to the Christmas story.

SCENE: The front of the stage is arranged to represent a simple living room. The only necessary furniture is a davenport and lamp, and there should be a Christmas tree. At the center of the stage, near the back there should be space for the tableaux with a curtain that can be pulled at the proper moment. Tableaux will be more effective if seen through a thin gauze curtain, which is behind the concealing curtain.

TIME: Christmas Eve.

CAST:

Grandmother—a woman in her fifties
Jane—an eight-year-old girl
Mother—an attractive young woman
Daddy—a typical young businessman
The Angel—a delicate teen-age girl
Mary—the Madonna type
Joseph—a rather tall young man
Shepherds—three young men
Wise Men—three older-looking men

(As curtain opens Grandmother is sitting on the davenport, knitting. Jane is wandering around the room in a restless manner.)

JANE (petulantly): Grandma, when will Mother and Daddy be home?

GRANDMOTHER: Gracious, child, there is no way of telling. They may be very late.

JANE: But why did they have to go away on Christmas Eve?

GRANDMOTHER: Why, honey, you know they went to take Mary Davenport to the hospital to have her baby.

JANE: Well, I wish they hadn't gone.

GRANDMOTHER: Why, Janie dear, it was the only thing they could do. Poor Mary needs to have someone with her. With Joe, her husband away with the Navy, and her people living way out in California, the poor girl is so alone here. You wouldn't want to think of her being at the hospital all alone, would you?

JANE: No, I guess I wouldn't. Mary says Mother has seemed just like

a big sister to her ever since she moved in next door to us.

GRANDMOTHER: Mary is a dear sweet girl, and it will be lovely to have a new little baby in the house next door, won't it?

JANE: Yes, but this is Christmas Eve. That's an awful time to have a baby.

GRANDMOTHER: Oh no, Janie, don't say that. This is the most wonderful night of all for a baby to come into the world. This night when all the world is filled with kindness, and love, and joy. You know the baby Jesus was born on this night nearly two thousand years ago—and that's what makes it Christmas.

JANE: Yes, I know. Tell me the story again, will you, Grandma?

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, child, I will. (Lays her knitting aside and helps Jane up beside herself.) Here, climb up here beside me. How I love to tell the story of that blessed night so long ago.

JANE: Mother says you always used to tell it to her on Christmas Eve when she was a little girl.

GRANDMOTHER (smiles reminiscently): Yes, Janie, when your mother was my very own little girl, she used to climb up beside me just like you are doing, and she loved to hear the story about the baby that was born in a stable. It really is the most wonderful story in the whole world, you know.

JANE (thoughtfully): I guess it was bad of me to say that about Mary Davenport. I guess she would really like to have her baby born on Jesus's birthday, wouldn't she?

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, dear, I think she would.

JANE (reaching over and picking up the Bible): Will you read me the story right out of the Bible, just the way it really happened, Grandma?

GRANDMOTHER (taking Bible reverently): Yes, darling, just the way it really happened.

JANE: I'll do like Mother says she did when she was little. I'll close my eyes real tight, and it will seem like I can really see the story happen.

GRANDMOTHER (opens Bible and reads): The story really begins way back thousands of years when people were looking for a leader and a Savior.

God promised then that a Messiah would be born to a virgin of the House of David, and the Bible says: "The Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary."

1 TABLEAU

(Curtain slowly opens to reveal Mary standing. Angel kneels before her. If possible have organ play softly Ave Maria.)

ANGEL: Hail Mary, full of grace. Blessed art thou among women.

(Mary covers her face with her hands and appears frightened.)

ANGEL: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor in the sight of God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called "the Son of the Most High," and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Mary: How shall this be, seeing that I know no man?

ANGEL: The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. The child which thou shalt bear will be the son of God (Exit Angel.)

MARY (kneeling): My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, for he hath looked upon the low estate of his handmaiden, for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

(Music fades away. Curtain is pulled.)

GRANDMOTHER (reading): And Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily, but when he thought on these things an angel of the Lord appeared unto him.

2 TABLEAU

(Organ plays softly "As With Gladness Men of Old" as curtain opens slowly to reveal Joseph standing with a saw in his hand, as though interrupted at his work. Angel stands beside him.)

ANGEL: Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thyself Mary thy wife, for the child that she shall bear is not of man but of the Holy Spirit.

*Mrs. Clarence E. Sittler, whose husband is the minister of Fifth Evangelical and Reformed Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

JOSEPH: So be it done. As thou hast spoken so shall prophecy be fulfilled. The Messiah is to be born of the Virgin Mary.

(Music fades out and curtain is pulled.)

GRANDMOTHER (reading): Now it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; to enroll himself with Mary who was betrothed to him, being great with child. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. An angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

3 TABLEAU

(Organ plays "While Shepherds Watched Their Flock." Curtains open to reveal three shepherds seated on ground. A bright light is suddenly turned upon them. They get to their feet and look frightened as a voice is heard off stage.)

ANGEL (off stage): Fear not—for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

(Shepherds rub their eyes and look as though they are stunned.)

SHEPHERD: Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

(Music fades out. Curtain is pulled.)

GRANDMOTHER (reading): Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, three Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For

we have seen his star in the East and art come to worship him."

4 TABLEAU

(Organ plays "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Curtain opens to reveal three Wise Men facing same direction that shepherds departed.)

CASPAR: Yonder star shines brighter as we draw nearer.

MELCHIOR: It hovers over Bethlehem.

BELTHAZAR: It is written, and thou Bethlehem, land of Judah, art in no wise least among the princes of Judah. For out of thee shall come forth a governor who shall be the shepherd of my people Israel.

(Music fades, and curtain closes.)

GRANDMOTHER (reading): And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And they came into the house and saw the young child with his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him.

5 TABLEAU

(Organ plays "Silent Night." Curtain opens to show manger scene. Mary seated behind the manger, Joseph standing at her left. Wise Men and Shepherds kneeling facing manger.)

FIRST SHEPHERD: Truly, this is a wondrous night.

SECOND SHEPHERD: All glory and honor and praise be unto God.

THIRD SHEPHERD: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd.

CASPAR: We have seen his star in the East and art come to worship him.

MELCHIOR: Gold I lay at his feet.

BELTHAZAR: Frankincense and myrrh we bring.

MARY: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Most blessed am I among women. The Son of God hath been entrusted to my care, but for a little while.

(Music fades, curtain is pulled.)

(Grandmother closes Bible and Jane says reverently.)

JANE: Oh, Grandma, I really did see it. Just like Mother said she used to. It seemed so real I could hear them talk. It's just like magic.

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, Janey, Christmas is magic time.

JANE: I wish I could have been there to give the Baby Jesus a gift, too.

GRANDMOTHER: You can give your gift, child, to Mary Davenport's new little baby. Remember, Jesus said, "In as much as ye do it unto one of the least of these, ye do it unto me." That is why we give gifts to those we love on his birthday.

(Enter Mother and Daddy.)

MOTHER: Merry Christmas, Janey, Mother.

(Jane runs excitedly and hugs her mother.)

JANE: Oh, Mother, does Mary have her baby? Is it a little boy?

MOTHER: Yes, darling, a dear little baby boy.

(Jane goes to Daddy and as he grabs her up she says):

JANE: Christmas is a beautiful time to have a baby, isn't it, Daddy? It must make Jesus very happy to have another baby share his birthday.

(Organ plays softly "Silent Night" as the curtain is drawn.)

GIVES FREEDOM OF WORSHIP ASSURANCES

Rome—Assurances that Italy's new government will respect principles of freedom of worship set forth in Articles XVII and XIV of the postwar Constitution were given to Parliament by Interior Amintore Fanfani.

He also told the lower chamber that immediate steps will be taken to formulate an agreement—called for by Article VIII of the 1948 Constitution—regulating the relationship between the State and non-Catholic communions.

The minister reaffirmed the new government's "willingness to study any concrete proposals by representatives of non-Catholic confessions to modify existing laws and to achieve such an agreement."

At the session, Liberal, Socialist and Communist deputies presented separate resolutions demanding stricter observance of the constitutional guarantees and the ending of "persecution of religious minorities."

But Minister Fanfani said, "No one should speak, even rhetorically, about religious persecution in Italy because there never has been any in this country nor will there be in the future."

Protestant circles here hailed the minister's statement as an indication that the new government plans to exhibit a friendlier attitude than its predecessor toward religious minority groups. But they greeted his broad denial of "persecution" with reserve.—RNS

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Church Management Publicity Contest

Church Management is proud to announce the results of the Printed Publicity Contest. Several excellent entries were received from churches all over the country. The judges had a difficult time making the awards among so many excellent presentations. However, they made their decisions as listed below. The prize-winning material was exhibited at the International Churchmen's Exposition in Chicago last month. *Church Management* thanks the participating churches for their cooperation and congratulates all entrants on the fine work they presented.

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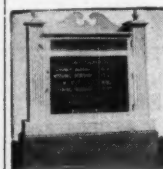
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HERE IS THE ANSWER

Ask the Man Who Tithes

by Richard L. James*

RECENTLY the finance committee of our church decided to contact a number of persons whose contributions were regular enough to indicate that they were systematic in their giving and that they might be tithers. The following letter was sent to them asking for an expression of their ideas on the matter:

You can be of help to us by acquainting us with your views on the matter of giving and in particular what influenced you to begin the habit.

Your account on the church finance books indicates that you may be either a tither or a proportionate giver, since your offerings are constant and regular.

The purpose of this letter is to elicit your assistance. Your reply will be kept confidential and will not be mentioned without first consulting you about it.

We want your beliefs and convictions on the subject of tithing or proportionate giving in church financing and what was the most convincing thing to you in deciding to contribute on such a basis.

Sincerely,
(Signed)
Chairman, Finance Committee

* * *

As the replies came back, they were tabulated and run in a column headed "Finance Forum" in the weekly church paper. They testify to the joys which come through giving to the church systematically. For that reason, it seems that sharing these might be an inspiration to help others acquire this joy for themselves.

One couple reported that "we feel that is the best way to handle our finances with the church, as we try to make a pledge and meet it regardless of income. We have realized that giving what we can and doing it regularly keeps us more interested. Also, the finance committee knows what to expect from us."

A widow earning her own living said: "I consider giving to the church an obligation which I accepted when I became a member of the church. Every privilege in life carries an obligation which we should be glad to carry out. As citizens of our country we are not only asked to give a certain per cent of our income, but it is taken out of our salaries. For the privilege of own-

ing a home we have to pay taxes. For the privilege of having children we have to spend a lot of money for food, clothing and education. Our church certainly requires money and the Bible plainly tells us how we should give."

A working girl replied:

"God has been very good to me in both my personal and business life. If He and His church hadn't taught me to think and act as I do, I probably would not have the good, pleasant job I do today."

A salesman wrote:

"Believing that God is with us in everything we do and everywhere we go . . . we believe that God is entitled to ten per cent of what we earn. Since we have been associated with the church and its people our lives have been much happier and fuller. It has been a wonderful experience."

Another widow answered:

"I would give the Lord all I have because I love Jesus with all my heart."

A mother who worked to help supplement the family income pointed out her feelings:

"I feel obligated to spend at least one single hour each week in the Lord's house for all the blessings I receive. This money which is set aside each pay day must be taken to the Lord's house . . . not sent. This also obligates my presence each Sunday. Incidentally, the little envelopes are a great help as a systematic reminder."

A girl who supports her widowed mother sent in this reply:

"Knowing that 'every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above,' I set aside a portion of my income as an acknowledgment of God's ownership. I do not believe that this discharges my total obligation in the matter, but just as one pays rent or other obligations in acknowledgment of services rendered, so I set aside a portion of my income as a symbol of God's total ownership. When I have done this, I believe that the remainder of my income used for my honest needs will then have the touch of God's blessings upon it."

A family sent in this statement:

"Just for our personal satisfaction we would stay with tithing. The pleasure we get out of giving is one of the

*Jacksonville, Florida.

greatest pleasures we have. We think we find what we look for, and since we began tithing we make it a rule to see and talk over with each other the nice things that come our way. . . . Anything that causes us to look for the best is the thing we get the most from. We think pledging ourselves to give a tithe has worked well with us. We try to see the good in whatever happens. Naturally, that emphasizes the good and minimizes the petty things that annoy. It seems to us that the most we get out of tithing is our inner satisfaction."

The sentiment of another family was:

"For a long time we did not feel capable of doing any church work and we gave proportionately. Then we saw things we could do. Little by little these things increased. Finally we started tithing and the more we did the more we enjoyed it. It seemed that the more we gave the more we had to spend for the real necessities of life."

A young widow revealed her sentiments in the following statement:

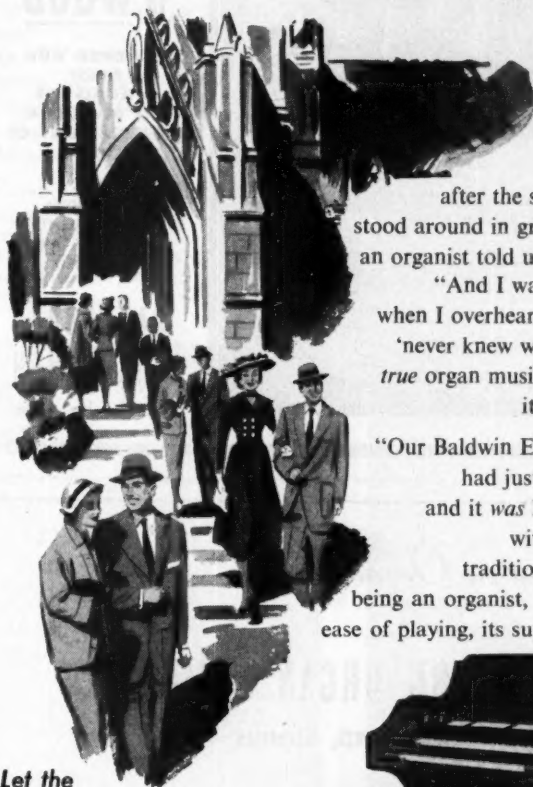
"I suppose you would call me a tither. I set a certain amount to give to my church since I make a very small salary. It is about ten per cent of what I make. Sometimes it is a little over, at other times a little under. I feel that it is very important to tithe, so I set aside a certain amount just as I do for the rent, etc. I would be happy to give more if I possibly could. My mother keeps my little girl for me, and my mother has no other income and I try to help her all I possibly can. I have the full support of my child. I can truthfully say since I have become a Christian and started tithing, the Lord has made it possible for me to do more for my child and my mother than I ever have been able to do before. I couldn't feel right in my heart if I didn't tithe. I would feel like I was cheating Him who has done so much for me."

A closer analysis of these statements by way of summary reveal some interesting things. One has said that tithing is really the best way to give, while another maintained that God was entitled to one-tenth of the income, and one pointed out that in tithing, God's blessings rested upon the activities of spending the other nine-tenths.

One person tithed because she loved Christ, another because of gratitude for God's goodness, still another because in so doing it laid the emphasis upon the good things of life and minimized the petty things which annoyed.

One of the letters pointed out that there was an obligation because of the privileges which were enjoyed from God. To one, after tithing, there seemed to be more left for the real neces-

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sities of life than there had been before the practice was started. Finally, the practice had made it possible for one person to do more for her child and mother than ever before.

If you really want to know about tithing, ask the person who does it! Theorists can spin arguments for or against the matter, but you will never know what it means until you do it for yourself. Lacking that, your nearest evidence will come from the person who practices it.

When you find people who have tried it and say that it is the best way, that God is entitled to it, that God blesses the giver, that it instills love for Christ, develops gratitude, calls attention to the good, brings privileges, stretches the income and makes possible the support of dependents in a better way, there must be something important about it. Anything that will do all this for people must be good!

Notice that none of these persons approached the matter of tithing from a legalistic or Old Testament viewpoint. Each of them came at it from a practical standpoint as a principle which would help them in their religious practices and obligations. When they tried it thus, they found that it was helpful and they prefer to continue. Ask the man who tithes; he can tell you!

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ORDINATION STANDARDS CASE

Washington, D.C.—The United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case involving the question whether the government can establish a standard for the ordination of a minister.

The case involves George Lewis Dickinson, twenty-two, a member of the Jehovah Witnesses, who claims that a California draft board, in denying his application for 4-D deferment, asserted that he was not a regularly ordained minister.

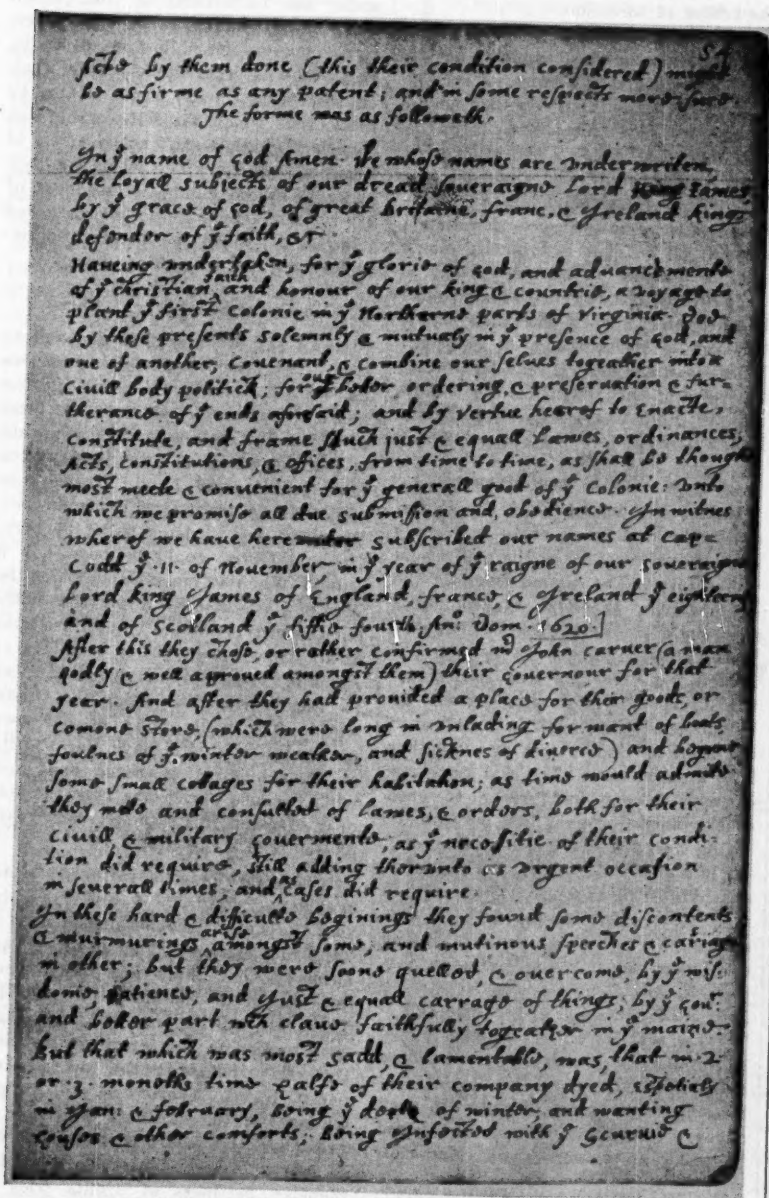
Leaders of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, governing body of the sect, declared, however, that he was ordained by the standards of their religious doctrine. They challenged whether an agency of the federal government could establish a standard for ordination from that of the group of which the defendant is a recognized minister.

Acceptance of the appeal by the Supreme Court represents a victory for Hayden Covington, attorney for the Jehovah's Witnesses, who repeatedly has tried to get the court to hear appeals on other cases in which members of the sect claim ministerial exemption from the draft.—RNS

"... For the Advancement of the Christian Faith"

ON November 11, 1620, a group of the Pilgrim fathers, gathered in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, affixed their signatures to a document designed to serve as a form of government, since the group possessed no charter. This document, known to us as the Mayflower Compact, was the first written American Constitution. It was one of those rare instruments wherein pure democracy was expressed. Each of the individuals to be governed expressed by their signatures their direct consent to the propositions set forth. In commemoration of this event, *Church Management* reproduces here a photo of the Compact as it appears in the Bradford history of "Plimouth Plantation." A partial quotation follows:

In ye name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten . . . having undertaken for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith . . . a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid . . .



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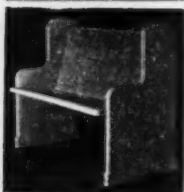


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SEPARATE LITERATURE OF EITHER ON REQUEST

CHRISTMAS IN AN ATOMIC AGE

The Lord God Reigneth

by Roger G. Imhoff*

CHRISTMAS is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Lord God decreed that it be the birthday of love and compassion in this disenchanted world. Thus the changeless Jesus Christ, his son, was born. Caesar had decreed that Bethlehem was to be a center of taxation. God made it the center of salvation.

Any civilization which offers chaos and confusion as its "normalcy" is in need of the sound of a voice. A society of nuclear giants cries out for something more than ethical infants. In the beginning God gave us the atom. We made a bomb of it. That was the yesterday of ten years ago. In the beginning God gave us hydrogen. Man made a bomb of it. That is typically man's way of bringing his own inventions to the brink of obsolescence. Man thinks he can protect himself with such bombs. Of such is the kingdom of delusion! Where men and nations fear each other, the voice of God, crying in the wilderness of Philistine secularism, admonishes, "Perfect love casteth out fear."

Event With Eternal Meaning

Indeed the birthday of Christ becomes the first great event in history with eternal meaning to the man whom God created. The second event is the Resurrection. When, in the course of events, the regular course of living as Mock Turtle in *Alice of Wonderland* reports, is "reeling and writhing," Christmas is God's valid answer to human need. And man is standing in the need of God in any age, whether it be atom or stone. The real stone age of man is our indifference to each other. With God's children everywhere crying for the bread of brotherhood, we must not reply with the stone of apathy. If man continues his selfish race for power, pomp, and circumstance he needn't be surprised if the retributive power of God's creative justice should allow his life to become bewitched, bothered and bewildered.

Thus, the day the Lord hath made, Christmas, is a blessed day because men can choose to receive its blessedness by the grace of God. If man chooses selfishness, hatred, and greed he will reap what he sows. Man can-

not gather the fig of good will from the thistle of ill will in this age any more than in any other. The sin and sickness of man stems from his forward faith in force, to the tune of billions of budget dollars, when the ultimate way of peace and brotherhood is the stone of Christian brotherhood, under the fatherhood of God, which must become the head of the corner. Hence man's own philosophical ideals, based on what man thinks, rather than on what God thinks, blinds us to the total crisis which our self-worship has conceived. Man doesn't really admit to being an atheist. Yet when we look away from the humble blessedness of the birth of Christ we become detached from God. When we become so detached, we are in sinking sands.

No Christmas Without Christ

If we say we love God and fail to love our brother as Christ admonishes us, we are talking as a fool in our heart. When we do not deny the birth of Christ but really say it is irrelevant to man's needs, then we are among the blind leading the blind. Notice how typical is the attitude of the innkeeper. He didn't say Christ couldn't be born. He said Christ could be born—in a stable! When we make Santa Claus the hero of Christmas we forget that without Christ there would be no Christmas at all. Our faces ought to be as red as Rudolph's nose! When we sing "Joy to the World" we mean the whole world. The white cliffs of our own provincial existence have no priority on the bluebirds of peace and good will. Because Christ was born the zeal of the Lord of Hosts and the holy grace of God will see to that.

In this race between faith and catastrophe we children of God recognize that the way of the Bethlehem baby is hard and narrow. The Apostle Paul observed that there are times when "we cannot do the things we would." There are still sword rattlers, paying no attention to the scriptural warning that they who lift the sword shall perish by it. There are still people walking in the darkness who need a great light. It would seem to be a sort of plight before Christmas that the plebeian pettiness of profits tries to

*Minister, Fenner Memorial Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

outshine the patrician prayer of peace on earth. The world continues to be divided into people who think they are right. A mechanistic world still worships what it manufactures, hardly realizing that it many times applies its mass production even to its mistakes.

It was said in New York last year that more people were trying to buy tickets to "South Pacific" than were trying to get into heaven. There was little vision of heaven in the song that came from that play:

You've got to be taught before it's too late

Before you are six, or seven, or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate.

You've got to be carefully taught.

Little wonder the schoolboy boner goes, "The world is revolting on its abscess." It's the way of the world, multiplying a nation without increasing its joy.

But there is joy in the world. Countless children of God all over his good earth see in those midnight streets of Bethlehem an everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all their years are met in Christ that night. Christmas gives daylight to their darkness. The default of chaotic secularism, worshipped by so many with their dollars, reveals that never have so many paid so much for so little. The fact of Christmas proclaims that never has so much been given to so many. "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!"

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Down through the bogs of Discouragement,
To the wonderful highway of Fame;
Through the blinding mists of Poverty,
When you're tempted to curse His name.

On the lone, stark road of Prophecy
When your good friends are hard to be seen;

On the pleasant paths of Attainment
Where the meadows are lovely and green.

'Cross the barren wastes of Apathy
Where none but your wife seems to care;

Through the thrilling land of Eager Response,
When Pride takes the place of Despair.

Christ, teach us to travel your highway,

For we know that you laid out the road;
And you travel today right beside us,
Please help us, O Christ, with this load!

—Graham R. Hodges,
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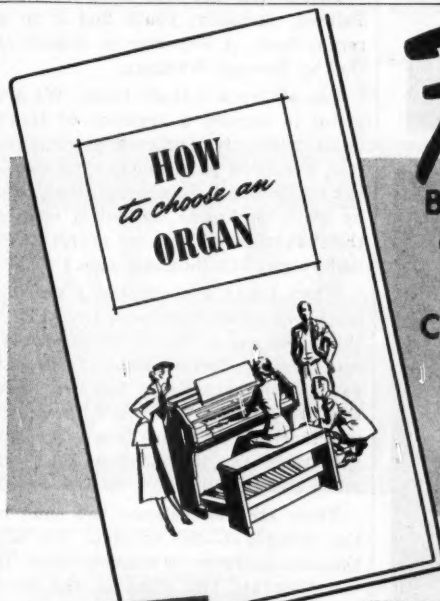
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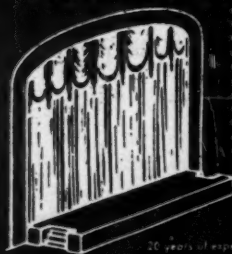
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WHAT PRICE RELIGION?

What the Jew Owes His Synagogue

by Adolph L. Salsburg*

This article is published for several reasons:

1. We have many Jewish readers.
2. We think it will create understanding between two great faiths.
3. It gives some figures on giving which will interest Christians.
4. It is written in the spirit of prophecy.

"ALL truth is God's truth. So the more of it we discover, the closer we should be to Him."

That sounds like something from the Talmud. Actually, you'll find it in a recent book, *A Reporter in Search of God* by Howard Whitman.

Yes, all truth is God's truth. We are going to explore a segment of God's truth which is particularly close to God, should be particularly close to us, but really is not sufficiently understood by most. It has to do with a side of the synagogue which most people know little about—the business side.

When I was a youngster, I remember being greatly intrigued by the fact that there was a side of the moon that was always turned away from the earth, and that nobody had ever seen this other side of the moon, though it was there all the time. Today, I realize that there are these "other sides" to many things.

There are, for instance, two sides to the synagogue—the spiritual side and the administrative or financial side. To me, they are two sides of the same thing. I can no more separate them than I could pull apart the two sides of a silver dollar.

Of course, you expect me to feel that way, because I am the executive secretary of a temple. It is my business to feel that way. Actually, it is the other way around. I am a temple executive secretary because I believe that Judaism in general, and Reform Judaism in particular, holds within itself the salvation of mankind. I have dedicated my life to the administration of the temple's affairs because on the basis of all my experience, I am convinced that

on the solidarity of the Reform Synagogue rests mankind's only remaining chance for achieving brotherhood and peace in this world.

Of course, you may not agree with me. That's every Jew's ancient prerogative—to disagree.

There is an old axiom that the only thing on which any two Jews can agree is what a third Jew should give to his synagogue.

And that brings us right down to the heart of our problem: What should a Jew give to his synagogue? Settle this and you will have established another truth which certainly will bring you closer to God—and will bring a lot of other people along with us.

What does the individual Jew owe his religion? I can answer that for you in one word: Loyalty! But like most of the other truths we'll explore, this one too has its two sides: a Jew owes his synagogue spiritual loyalty, and he owes it financial loyalty. And again, these two sides of loyalty are inseparable—as inseparable as Siamese twins. Try to separate them and they both die. That was what was wrong with Reform Judaism for so long—this attempt to separate these loyalties which cannot be separated.

Time was when many of us thought that we had discharged our obligation to God and religion and the temple when we had attended Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur services. We didn't realize then that attendance at services was not something we owed the temple, but a duty each man owed his own immortal soul.

Any good, observant Jew could have told us that praying on Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur was a matter of each individual's petitioning God earnestly to inscribe him in the Book of Life so he would live another year. But we didn't listen to good, observant Jews in those days. Most of us didn't even know any good, observant Jews. That was part, then, of being a Reform Jew.

Rabbi Solomon Goldman (whose death recently left the world poorer, just as his life made it richer) was moved to write in a book called *A Rabbi Takes Stock*, in 1931—please mark that date, it is important—1931:

*Congregation Emanu-El, Houston, Texas.

The end of almost a century of religious conflict in Jewry finds neither Orthodoxy nor Reform with any victory to record; finds, rather, both so impoverished in spiritual and intellectual resources that neither can hope to meet the new challenges of our own day. The two camps from time to time still emit rhetorical defiance, neither realizing evidently that each is sinking into a bog of its own making. The failure of both has been grave, and the future of Judaism would be dark indeed if it rested with the might of either group.

Then listen to Rabbi Goldman's specific indictment against Reform Jewry, back in 1931:

Reform will find in its own intellectual hollowness and spiritual sterility the cause of its failure. European Jewry has remained impervious to the influence of Reform Judaism, while its flamboyant "success" in America is limited to bricks and mortar. In spite of social position, wealth and public eloquence, it has nowhere gained ardent disciples.

It is amazing to contrast that indictment with the one we now hear. Now, they're saying that Reform Judaism is going back to Orthodoxy.

Reform Judaism Looks Ahead

Reform isn't going back to anything. It isn't going back. Reform is going forward, re-enriching itself with all that was beautiful and inspirational in the old Judaism—modernizing, even revitalizing, Judaism with some newly conceived ritual practices which Reform has instituted and other branches have adopted to their own glory.

Rabbi Goldman's prediction could very well have come true had Reform continued along the path it was going. Remember, Reform is not quite 150 years old. It has only begun to gain stature in the past fifty years. And in that short period it has already seen two major developments.

The first of these, at the turn of the century, won Reform its first great influx of supporters. This was the period when all men were brothers—Jew, Gentile, Irishman, Italian, German, everybody—all pouring into this great melting pot to be fused into one people: Americans. The thing was, to make us all as nearly alike as possible. We must strip Judaism of everything that made it different, that made Jews different. Then we and our neighbors would be all alike—all loving brothers.

In the effort, so enticing then, we were so busy stripping Judaism of its differences, its "trappings," that we almost threw out the baby with the bath water. Among the things that went out was loyalty!

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about the time that Rabbi Goldman was writing his book. Around the early 1930's there were the beginnings of a reawakening in the ranks of Reform. It was this reawakening of Jewish consciousness and Jewish loyalty that is having its climax today and is resulting in the amazing growth and vigor and virility which Reform Judaism is experiencing today. We are witnessing the rebirth of our people's sense of loyalty. And I must remind you that this loyalty has two sides — spiritual loyalty and financial loyalty.

Now, what does the individual Jew owe his religion in terms of financial loyalty? What the individual Jew should give his synagogue must be determined by the need of the synagogue and by the individual's means. It's as simple as that.

Let's take those two factors separately. Remember, we are no longer dealing with a Jew who feels that his obligation ends with attendance at High Holy Day services. Now we are concerned with a Reform Jew who realizes more and more the three-fold job of the synagogue.

Among the other traditions we are learning over again is the old one which says that the synagogue must be a House of Worship, a House of Learning and a House of Assembly. The question is, how far do we want our particular synagogue to go in fulfilling this three-fold requirement?

We can have services through the year, a Sunday school, and an occasional dance sponsored by Brotherhood or Sisterhood and we've complied with the tradition. Or we can expand these three functions into a myriad of activities until our temple program touches the lives of everybody in our community continually, thrillingly, inspiringly, making of them ever-better Jews, ever-better Americans, ever-better human beings.

The question is: What do you want your synagogue, your temple, your congregation to be? It will be just exactly as commonplace, as dormant, as unexciting, or just exactly as virile, dynamic and vibrant as your rabbi, your plant facilities and your vision make it.

Those are the three factors that determine the greatness, the service, the worth-whileness of a synagogue, any synagogue, large or small: its rabbi, its plant and its vision. Vision, my friends, your vision!

How great do you want your temple to be? How great do you want Judaism to be? How great is your vision? There is the question that must be answered first. Then I can tell you what each Jew owes his temple in dollars and cents.

To find out the obligation of each member toward carrying out his temple's program you take the annual budget, divide it by the number of families, and you've got your answer. Oddly enough, the answer that you get to this arithmetic problem varies little around the country.

Large congregation, small congregation; industrial North or sunny South; Los Angeles or New York; the cost of carrying on a worth-while program today runs right around \$120 per member per year.

And it works the other way around too. Tell me how many members a congregation has and I'll tell you what its annual budget should be. A temple with 200 families in its membership should have a budget of around \$24,000. A congregation with 1,000 families will find its operations costing \$120,000.

That is the basis on which successful congregations approach their dues problem today. First, they decide what they want their synagogue to do — how much of a program their community requires. Then they determine the cost. Then, with their budget figure in hand, they determine the cost per member per year to carry out their program, and that becomes their basic dues figure for that year.

So we have some of the answer to our question: What should a Jew give to his synagogue? We start with a basic figure of \$120 per year. Some folks, of course, are going to have to give more than \$120 because some others can't give that much. We said that each Jew's obligation depends on two things: the need of his temple, and his ability to help meet that need. Not everybody can afford to pay \$120 a year. So, we set up a lower minimum for such cases. Others can afford more, so they pay more. At our temple, in Houston, this minimum is \$75.

Actually, of course, nobody is refused the facilities for worship and religious education because of inability to pay. People who can't pay anything receive free membership. We also give free memberships to all persons in the armed services, to veterans during their first year out of service, to those "new Americans" who want to belong to a Reform congregation, and a few others.

But those who can and should pay, start at \$75 — and then only after they have convinced the dues committee that they are financially unable to pay more. Quite frequently, when we tell an applicant that our minimum is \$75, he says, "That's a lot of money." Yes, it does sound like a lot when you say it real fast. But when you line it up with some other things — well, take cigarettes, for instance.

It certainly is everybody's privilege

to smoke as many and as often as they please. But just stop and think a moment and you'll realize that the average smoker spends \$75 to \$80 a year on cigarettes. If both husband and wife smoke, the tax on the family budget is \$150 or more annually. Suddenly, \$75 doesn't seem like quite so much money after all.

The thing to decide is simply whether our religion is as important to us, say, as a package of cigarettes a day.

Where the Money Goes

You can follow this a step further if you wish. According to figures assembled by the Golden Rule Foundation from income tax returns for 1949, the average American family's spending that year included \$111 for tobacco, \$218 for alcoholic beverages, around \$400 for gambling, and \$98.89 per family for giving of all sorts. Of this \$98.89, fifty per cent, or a little under \$50 per family went to religious giving, which included giving to every institution run by religious groups, such as schools, colleges, hospitals, missions and so forth.

The Jewish average is a little better, thank goodness. In a survey made a couple of years ago by the National Association of Temple Secretaries, it was established that the national average of dues in Reform temples was \$76.60 per year per family. But that won't get the job done. Not when it costs around \$120 per family per year to carry on the program of a good synagogue.

Of course, we can only afford to sign up members for \$75 because some folks are paying a lot more than that to take up the slack. We have members paying \$200, \$300, \$500, and up to \$1,275.

That, my friends, is what I mean when I say that each Jew owes his temple financial loyalty in proportion to the temple's needs and to his own ability to help finance the synagogue's program.

Of course, there are still a lot of congregations around the country which continue to fight against a deficit with bazaars, raffles, rummage sales and so forth, around the clock, and around the calendar. It is what happens to the soul and spirit of these congregations that makes me so sure that the spirituality and the financial security of a congregation are inseparable.

Somehow, a congregation with a deficit to fight never quite loses sight of the fact. Every problem that comes up must be decided with one eye on that deficit. Shall we have gambling in our temple? Well, we have to raise money somehow. Shall we stick by our guns when a member says, "To heck with the rules, you're going to do this my

way!"? Well, he's a rich man and we can't afford to lose his dues. So we find ourselves with one set of rules for the poor and another for the rich. Stresses and strains and hard feelings develop which will never be lived down.

All Brotherhood and Sisterhood activities are geared to the necessity for helping meet the budget. Every brain cell, every nerve, every muscle in the congregation's body is strained to that task. There is no time to think or plan or work for the things which build a congregation's spirituality.

Just as an illustration of what money

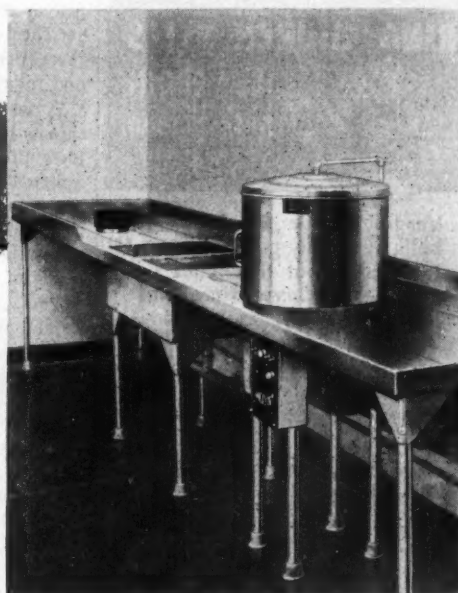
can be spent for to increase a congregation's spirituality, take the "retreat" which our Sisterhood sponsored for the entire confirmation class of thirty-three youngsters this spring. They took over some barracks at Bastrop State Park for a weekend, chartered buses, and arranged for a real outing. The kids left our temple in the chartered buses, on a Friday after lunch, had supper at their beautiful place in the woods, and that night held Sabbath services under the stars.

When the services were over, the rabbi pointed to a stack of candles and



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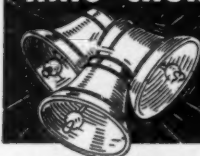
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asked if someone would come forward, light a candle and say a prayer—out loud—thanking God for something in his or her life. It went a little slowly at first, of course, then the thing caught on. One by one, those thirty-three children, about to be confirmed, stepped up voluntarily, spontaneously, and there in the night, under the towering trees, lit a candle and dedicated it by audible prayer to some person, deed or event for which that child was grateful. The ceremony became so beautiful and inspiring that each of a dozen adults present as chaperones felt moved, stepped up, and lit a candle and said a prayer thanking God—out loud. That set the tone for a weekend of mingled recreation and worship, fun and food, and religious inspiration.

It was one of the most beautiful things that has happened in our temple's life. Our entire congregation is uplifted by it. The retreat will become an annual feature for every confirmation class. Think what that will mean as those youngsters become tomorrow's heads of Jewish families.

You all remember Lloyd C. Douglas, author of *Magnificent Obsession*, *Green Light* and other inspired and inspirational best sellers.

I knew Dr. Douglas when he was pastor of the First Congregational Church in Akron, Ohio, and I was a reporter on the *Akron Beacon-Journal*. That was before he had written the novels which made him famous. As a token of our friendship, one day he handed me a copy of the first book he ever wrote, called *Wanted—A Congregation*. It was published in 1920. Like all of Dr. Douglas' books, it presents in novel form, a powerful preaching—this time to ministers, telling them what to do and what not to do in the ministry.

In the book, the Reverend Dan Blue is taking stock of himself at age forty, in a rut, and with a congregation that is in a rut, too. He gets into conversations with several old classmates at a private reunion. Each tells "the Reverend" from his layman's point of view how he ought to run a church. Let's listen briefly to what an industrialist tells him about church finances:

To the best of my knowledge [the manufacturer is telling the Rev. Mr. Blue] all of the churches are practicing beggary. There may be churches of which this is not true. I hope so. I do not happen to know about them. All the churches of my acquaintance are beggars! And beggars do not command! The beggar can collect his daily bread. He can call out a great deal of pity and sympathy and whole-souled charity, which undoubtedly benefits the donors. But I don't expect these poor things to exercise a commanding influence over me, or anyone else. It's flat

against nature and sense that this could be the case.

Now, just so long as the church wants the public to consider her as a dependent, she will live a dependent life. She will have to content herself with that position in the natural scheme of things.

She can do a little work, and attract the interest of certain persons who have become used to such procedure, so that they don't mind it any more. She can conduct successful rummage sales, profitable bazaars, and collect yards and rods and miles of nickels—but she cannot stand up and speak to the world in a tone that will make it imperative for the world to listen—just because—beggars do not speak imperatively and the whole world knows it.

Heritage of Judaism

All of which brings us right back to where we started from: I am firmly convinced that Judaism in general and Reform Judaism in particular, holds within itself the salvation of mankind. I am convinced, on the basis of all my experience, that on the solidarity of the Reform synagogue rests mankind's only remaining chance for achieving brotherhood and peace in this world.

Three thousand years ago at Sinai, God placed in our hands the instrument—Torah—and charged us to "be unto Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Our ancestors accepted that charge, leaving us no choice but to carry on the task or default in an obligation to God.

Down through the ages, Jews have kept alive in the world the fires of freedom, democracy, brotherhood, as the only ways in which to win through to final peace. In Jerusalem, in Jabneh, in Babylon, in Pumbeditha, in Spain, in Eastern Europe, those fires were tended and nurtured by our rabbis and sages. Now, with the slaughter of the millions in Eastern Europe, the torch has been passed on to the Jews in America.

For a long time, it has been all too obvious that the world is in a mess because its millions have failed to listen to the message of the Torah. The one thing which can save the peoples of the world from self-destruction is the law which God gave Israel on Mt. Sinai.

Mankind's one, big, remaining chance is that the Jew will keep on eternally learning, eternally practicing, and eternally dining into the consciousness of the world those precepts of brotherhood and love and mercy and justice, until finally mankind must stop and listen and at last beat their atomic bombs into ploughshares.

"Then nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid."

That is the job of the Jews. And who

are the Jews? You and I. And through what agency, what medium shall we, must we bring this about? The synagogue, our Reform synagogue. And on what does the synagogue rest? Squarely on the loyalty of each member! My friends, that leaves it up to each and every one of us! The future welfare of mankind rests squarely on you and your loyalty to your synagogue!

ALTAR OR COMMUNION TABLE

October 12, 1953

Editor, *Church Management*:

The article in the October, 1953, issue of your excellent magazine entitled "The Chapel, Highland Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina" states: "The definition of an altar, as opposed to a communion table, is one which has not been clearly made, at least from an official standpoint."

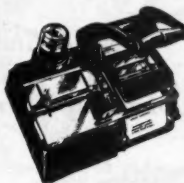
An altar is a place of sacrifice: every well-appointed pagan altar has either a reservoir in which to catch the blood of the victim (human or animal) or ducts (gutters) in which the flowing blood is drained. As the Christian Church became an organized institution it made compromise with the pagan world in which it found itself; as it lost its essential nature of a company of believing disciples it took over some of the forms, rites, beliefs of the religion of the pagan world. One of these forms was "the altar." This became a visible symbol of a growing belief in the doctrine of blood atonement. Christ's blood was shed for many for the remission of sins. The approach to an altar is on bended knee, an approach of humility; the words of humble access are "O Lord, I am unworthy"; the aura of an altar is mystery and magic.

On the other hand, the communion table symbolizes that which it suggests: a place of fellowship, where a common meal is served. It must be set so that those who would have fellowship or communion can gather on all four sides of the table. Neither priest nor member of the hierarchy presides at the table, and the (so-called) elements are passed to the people by representatives of the people. This is the "agape," the early Christian "love-feast," and it is the Christian faith represented in basic form and stark realism without reservation and without compromise.

Churches whose creed emphasizes the blood atonement, the shed blood of Christ, the Sacrificial or Paschal Lamb, properly have an altar set against the back wall of the east end of the sanctuary. This symbolizes for all who see it the basic belief of the church. Free

(Turn to page 84)

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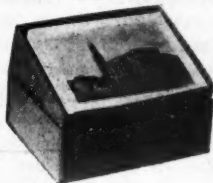
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The best people know that this is true. They may be found among the men and women serving churches throughout our land. Their faces glow with satisfaction as they speak of the way their lives have been tied up with the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund. Men and women of real distinction, living in the parsonages, manses and rectories over the land, like the tone that marks the work of the oldest insurance company.

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an Institution"

The Meaning of Names

From A Children's Sermon

by Stanley Armstrong Hunter*

A good name is rather to be chosen
than great riches.—Proverbs 22:1.

ABIGAIL—(Hebrew) A father's joy

ABNER—(Hebrew) Father of light

ABRAHAM—(Hebrew) Father of
multitude

ADA—(Teutonic) Happy, rich gift

ADELAIDE—(Teutonic) Nobility

ADRIAN, ADRIENNE — (Roman)
Black

AGATHA—(Greek) Good

AGNES—(Latin) Sacred, pure

ALAN, ALLAN, ALLEN—(Teutonic)
Cheerful

ALBERT—(German) Nobly bright

ALEXANDER—(Greek) Helper of
men

ALEXANDRA—same as Alexander

ALFRED—(Teutonic) Crafty, coun-
sellor

ALICE—(Anglo Saxon) Noble cheer

AMY—(French) Charm, woman be-
loved

ANDREW—(Greek) Knightly

ANNE, ANN, ANNA, ANITA —
(Greek) Grace

ANTHONY—(Latin) Strength

ARNOLD—(Teutonic) Eagle, power

ARTHUR—(Anglo Saxon) High

AUDREY—(Anglo Saxon) Noble

AUGUSTUS—(Roman) Majestic

AVERIL—(Anglo Saxon) Wild boar
maid

BARBARA—(Roman) Artistic devo-
tion

BARTHOLOMEW—(Hebrew) Son of
furrows

BEATRICE—(Latin) Blessed, joy
giver

BELLE—(Phoenician)—Oath of Baal

BENJAMIN—(Hebrew) Son of my
right hand

BERNARD—(French) Like a bear

BERTHA—(Teutonic) The bright one

BLANCHE—(Teutonic) White

BLENDA—(Teutonic) Dazzling

BOYD—(Celtic) Yellow

BRIAN, BRYAN—(Celtic) Strong

CECIL—(Latin) Blind

CELIA—(Latin) The heavens

CHARLES, CARL—(Teutonic) A man

CHARLOTTE—(French) Feminine of
Charles

CHRISTINA, CHRISTINE — (Scot-
tish) Handsome

CLARA, CLAIRE—(Latin) Clear

CLARENCE—(Latin) To be renowned

CURTIS—(French) Courteous

CYRIL—(Greek) Lordly

DANIEL—(Hebrew) The judging God

DAPHNE—(Greek) Bay tree

DAVID—(Hebrew) Beloved

DEBORAH—(Hebrew) Eloquent

DOLORES—(Spanish) Sorrows

DONALD—(Irish) Proved chieftain

DORA—(German) Gift

DOROTHY—(Greek) A gift of God

DOUGLAS—(Scottish) Dark, grey

EDGAR—(Teutonic) Rich, spear

EDITH—(Anglo Saxon) Rich gift

EDMOND—(Anglo Saxon) Protector

EDNA—(Anglo Saxon) Happiness

EDWARD—(Anglo Saxon) Rich ward
or guard

EDWIN—(Anglo Saxon) Rich friend

ELEANOR—see Helen

ELIZABETH—(Hebrew) Oath of God

EMMA—(Spanish) A housekeeper

ERNEST—(German) Grace, serious

ESTHER—(Persian) A star

ETHEL—(Anglo Saxon) Noble

EUGENE—(Greek) Well born

EUNICE—(Greek) Good victory

EVELYN—(Celtic) Pleasant

FLORENCE—(Latin) Flourishing

FRANCES—(French) Free man

FREDERICK—(Teutonic) Peace-ruler

GEORGE—(Greek) Earth worker

GERALD—(Teutonic) Spear thrower

GERTRUDE—(Teutonic) Spear
maiden

GILBERT—(German) Bright pledge

GRACE—(Latin) Gratitude

GREGORY—(Greek) Watchman

GWENDOLYN—(Anglo Saxon) White-
browed

HAROLD—(Danish) Warrior

HARRIET—(Teutonic) Home rule

HARVEY—(Celtic) Bitter

HAZEL—(French) From a tree

HELEN—(Greek) The bright

HENRY—(Teutonic) Home rule

HERBERT—(Teutonic) Bright warrior

HOWARD—(French) Sword guardian

HUGH—(Teutonic) Thought

HULDAH—(Hebrew) Weasel

IRENE—(Greek) Goddess of peace

ISABEL—See Elizabeth

JACOB—(Hebrew) A supplanter

JAMES—(Hebrew) same as Jacob

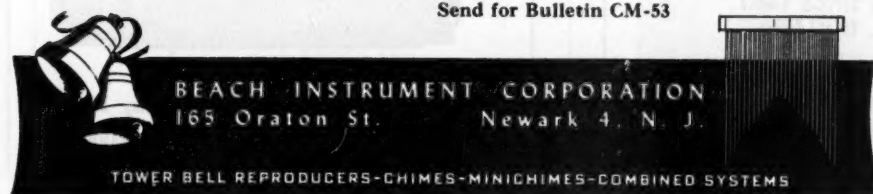
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JANICE, JANET, JANE, JOANNA,
JEAN, JESSIE, JESSICA, JOAN—

Favor, grace

JERRY, JEREMIAH—(Hebrew) Ex-
alted of the Lord

JOHN—(Hebrew) Grace, favor

JOSEPH, JOSEPHINE — (Hebrew)

Addition, increase

JOYCE—(Latin) Merry

JUDITH, JUDY—(Hebrew) Praise of
the Lord

JULIA, JULIUS—(Latin) Divine

KATHARINE—(Greek) Pure, clean

KAY—(Latin) Rejoicing

KENNETH—(Scottish) Handsome

LAURENCE, LAURA — A lord or
master

LEILA—(Arabic) Darkness

LEONARD—(Greek) Lion strong

LESLIE—(Scottish) Between the less
and the greater

LEWIS—(Welsh) Lion like

LILLIAN, LILY—Purity

LLOYD—(Celtic) Grey

MABEL—(Anglo Saxon) Great

MARGARET—(Greek) A pearl

MARIE, MARIAN, MARTHA, MARI-
LYN, MAURINE, MARY — (He-
brew) Bitterness

MARTIN—(Latin) A disciplinarian
MATTHEW—(Hebrew) Gift of the
Lord

MERLE—(French) A blackbird

MICHAEL—(Hebrew) "Who is like
unto God?"

MILDRED — (Anglo Saxon) Mildly
severe

MILES—(Greek) Crusher

MILLCENT—(Teutonic) Strength

MURIEL, MYRTLE—(Greek) A freed-
woman

NANCY, NAN—See Anne

NAOMI—(Hebrew) My pleasant one

NATALIE—(Latin) Ministering

NORMAN—(Teutonic) God of the sea

OLIVER—(French) The olive

OWEN—(Welsh) Youth

PAMELA—(Greek) Sweetness

PATRICK, PATRICIA — (Latin) A
patrician

PAUL, PAULA—(Latin) Little, small

PETER—(Greek) A rock

PHILIP—(Greek) Fond of horses

PHOEBE—(Latin) Radiant, bright

PHYLLIS—(Greek) A green leaf

RACHEL—(Hebrew) Gentle

RALPH, RANDOLPH — (Roman) A
shield

RAYMOND — (French) Wise protec-
tion

REBECCA—(Hebrew) A snare

REGINALD — (Teutonic) Powerful
judgment

REUBEN—(Hebrew) "Behold a Son!"

RHODA—(Greek) A rose

RICHARD—(Anglo Saxon) Stern king

ROBERT — (French) Royal, bright
fame

RODERICK—(German) Famous ruler

ROGER—(Teutonic) Spear of fame

ROLAND, RONALD — (Teutonic)
Fame of the land

ROY—(Celtic) Ruddy

RUTH—(Hebrew) Beauty, uniting

SALLY, SARAH — (Hebrew) The
princess

SAMUEL—(Hebrew) Asked of God

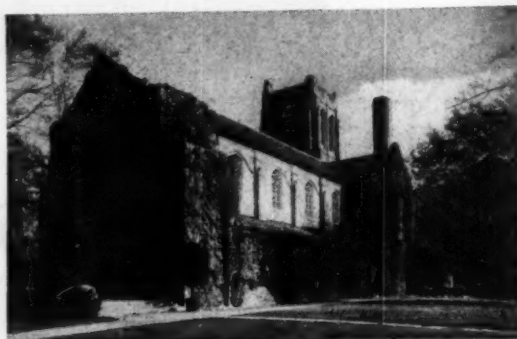
SYBIL—(Greek) A prophetess

STANLEY—(Anglo Saxon) He who
lives by the great stone in the
meadow

STELLA—(Latin) A star

STEPHEN — (Greek) Wearing a
crown

SUE, SUSAN, SUSANNA—(Hebrew)
Graceful, white lily



Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, recently installed a 47-bell carillon of genuine cast bronze bells. Rev. Dr. Frank Fitt, M.A., D.D., Minister.

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SYLVIA—(Latin) Shepherdess

TERESA—(Greek) A reaper

THEODORE—(Greek) God's gift

THOMAS—(Greek) A twin

TIMOTHY—(Greek) Honor God

UNA—(Celtic) Famine

URSULA—(Latin) Little bear

VALERIE—(Latin) Healthy

VERA—(Latin) A true woman

VICTOR—(Latin) Conqueror

VINCENT—(Latin) Conquering

VIOLA—(Latin) A violet

VIRGIL—(Latin) To flourish

VIRGINIA—(Latin) Springlike

VIVIAN—(Latin) Life

WALTER—(Teutonic) Power

WANDA—(Teutonic) Shepherdess

WARREN — (Teutonic) Protecting friend

WILFRED—(Anglo Saxon) Resolute peace

WILLIAM — (Teutonic) Resolution, helmet

WINIFRED—(Celtic) White stream

YVONNE—(French) A young warrior

Taxation of Dually Used Church Property

by Arthur L. H. Street

AS this article is being written (July 16, 1953) the effect of tax laws of at least one state—Ohio—upon church-owned buildings which are partly used for a tax-exempt purpose and partly used for an unexempt purpose—is doubtful.

The Ohio tax law exempts "houses used exclusively for public worship." Another section, as amended in 1949, dealing with real estate in general, provides that "where a separate parcel of real property * * * having a single ownership, is so used, that part thereof, if a separate entity, would be exempt from taxation, and the balance would not be, * * * the listing thereof shall be split and the part thereof used exclusively for an exempt purpose * * * shall be regarded as a separate entity and be listed as exempt," and the remainder shall be listed.

The Church of God, Cleveland, owned a two-story building. Basement rooms were used by the Sunday School, a

baptistry, and a furnace and laundry room. On the first floor was an auditorium used for public worship and two Sunday School rooms. On the second floor were two residence suites, one occupied by the pastor and his family and the other by the janitor and his family.

The Ohio Board of Tax Appeals decided that, because the building was not used exclusively for public worship, it was not tax-exempt. On an appeal to the Supreme Court that decision was reversed by a narrow vote of four-to-three. (This means, of course, that on a retirement of one of the four judges who constituted the majority his successor might, in a similar case, side with the minority and thereby make it a new majority, and result in a contrary decision on presentation of the same question in a case involving another church.)

It was recognized by all of the justices (Turn to page 86)

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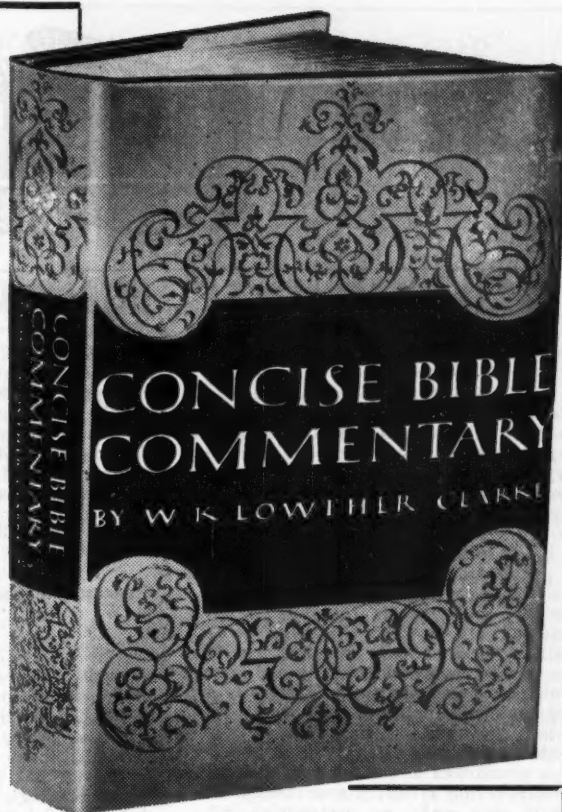
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to the minister and layman the religious and theological meaning of the Biblical text and the events it records. It fulfills completely the widespread need expressed by the Archbishop of York on May 7, 1952: "The full benefit will not be gained from the Bible unless it is read with intelligence. . . . What is greatly needed is a revival of Bible reading . . . but what is most needed of all is sound teaching about the Bible, and the books it contains."

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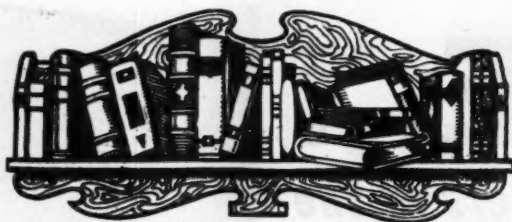
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NEW



BOOKS

Worship

Be Still and Know by Georgia Harkness. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Ninety-six pages. \$1.25.

This devotional book by Georgia Harkness will be well received by her host of friends throughout the country. Although she uses the stereotyped pattern—Bible verse, inspirational thought and prayer for each meditation, there is something extremely refreshing about the book.

Dr. Harkness is a gifted writer and a penetrating thinker. In this collection of eighty-six one-page devotions she not only reveals these gifts, but also her artistry and her deep spirituality. On each page she has one of her choice poems followed by a prayer which continues the theme. There is a captivating simplicity and beauty to these prayers; skillfully she avoids archaic and trite expressions. Ministers would find this book very helpful in discovering arresting expressions. It would also make an inexpensive but ideal gift for a friend who appreciates choice things.

J. S.

The Gospel of Prayer by Albert Casel Wiegand. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 245 pages. \$3.00.

In this volume the theme, throughout, is prayer. The author has made an intense study of prayer, and out of his explorations of the subject and his experience, he has brought forth this very exhaustive and helpful book.

The purpose the writer had in mind in producing the book was to demonstrate the philosophy of the prayer life of Jesus. The topics presented in the book show forth the practical problems arising in the prayer life of any individual. He suggests that the prayer life of Jesus furnishes us a philosophy of living. He shows that just as Jesus found prayer necessary to keep him in tune with God so must we.

The book contains thirty-nine chapters and covers every phase of prayer that may be found in the life of a Christian. It is truly, as it is named, a "Gospel of Prayer."

The closing pages of the book are given over to an appendix. In this appendix the author gives an outline of "Christ's Philosophy of Prayer." There are six heads to the well thought out synopsis: (a) The Essential Suppositions of Prayer, the metaphysical, the accessibility of God, and in truth: (b) The Ethical Presupposition of Prayer, the righteousness of God, the moral freedom of man, and mutual cooperation; The Essential Nature of Prayer; (c) Essential Attitudes and

Conditions of Reality in Prayer; (d) The Essentials of Method of Prayer; (e) The Essential Validity of Prayer; (f) The Objectives of Prayer; (g) The Prayer Life of Jesus.

It is probable that the subject matter of the book might have been a little more condensed, yet it is well worth one's time to read the book, and not only read, but study it. Give real study to this volume and it will greatly deepen the prayer life of anyone who desires a closer communion with God.

A. H. J.

Preaching From Pictures by Kenneth W. Sollitt. W. A. Wilde Company. 150 pages. \$2.50.

This present volume is a revised edition, which has slight changes, and colored pictures inserted where possible instead of the black and white. There are twelve complete services, each built about a famous picture. Each service has suggested music, responsive readings, hymns, and an especially helpful interpretation of the picture. Among the pictures are: The Sistine Madonna (Raphael), The Soul's Awakening (Sant), The Angelus (Millet), The Light of the World (Hunt), Christ and the Rich Young Ruler (Hofmann), Christ Blessing Little Children (Plockhorst), Samuel (Reynolds), Jesus in Gethsemane (Hofmann), and others.

In the second part of the book is to be found such chapters as "The Psychological Value of Preaching from Pictures" and "Finding and Studying Pictures That Preach."

The volume is a fine aid to worship and its suggestions are very helpful.

L. N. L.

The Bible

The Interpreter's Bible, edited by Nolan B. Harmon and an interdenominational board. Twelve volumes; Volume II: Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Judges, Ruth, Samuel. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 1176 pages. \$8.75.

Samuel Butler, a century since, portrayed the family devotions in the rectory. Theobald is reading from the fifteenth chapter of Numbers. "It had no particular bearing that I could see upon anything which was going on just then," observed a guest in the family circle.

The fifth of the twelve commentaries successfully endeavors to answer quickly and frankly just what each of the books does have to do with today. An evening with this volume will not give a lot of unrelated ideas. Paths for invitation to further study will appear.

Some readers of the Bible feel as

the guest in the old rectory did when he reflected on the fruits of family prayers. He said they never suspected that so many of the associated ideas could be present, and yet the main idea be wanting hopelessly, and forever.

Fifteen men and Louise Pettibone Smith from at least six denominations unite under the skilled coordination of the editorial board to bring searching Christians what they ought to know about the Bible.

"What is the book of Leviticus?" is one of the first questions raised. Typical answer: "It means the book pertaining to the persons and duties of the Levitical priests..." The admission is then made that the book has a tough time maintaining its qualifications for a place in the Christian Bible. "It is not to be thought that the ordinary Christian, if he sits down to read Leviticus without commentary or preliminary help, will derive much religious benefit from most of it." This approach prepares us to accept the following statements on what we can derive from studying the book. "What matters is the whole picture."

Numbers tells more than the meaning of "meek as Moses." In the introduction is a protest against the drone idea of studying Biblical history. "To have a Bible that we could apply directly to our own historical situation would make things very easy for us, but it would make us spiritual drones."

Deuteronomy, "first book accepted as Holy Scripture," is considered a great and more usable book. A creative and interesting outline is given for each book before the presentation of the King James and The Revised Standard Version in parallel columns. At the top of each page the parallel presentation, then the brief and well outlined exegesis and at the bottom of the page an exposition. In Volume II we find a variety but there isn't a let down in the writing and quality.

Joshua is another inspiring illustration of the way this particular volume gives one a sense of a history in which one can participate. Says the introduction, "It illustrates the dealings of God with His people." At the close of the outline is the heading, "Three Burials," and the references are given concerning the rites for Joshua, Joseph and Eleazar. The closing counsel of the exposition: "It is sheer folly to insist that we can cut ourselves adrift from yesterday and make a completely new beginning for ourselves."

If anyone thinks he has extracted all the meaning from Jotham's Fable in the ninth chapter of Judges he should notice this volume's account. As

an essay on leadership the comments would rate in literary circles. Other discussions of the effects of power on persons and the biographies of Biblical characters are as current as the American League standings and more interesting because they are not seasonal or dated.

Ruth is a story to be enjoyed. Even here the major and minor purposes of the book are clearly given. I and II Samuel are treated as a unit. Here we see that *The Interpreter's Bible* will not congeal into another orthodoxy. It breathes the spirit of confidence in ground gained and the unification of the scholars as they gather in this commentary. Every one of them assumes that more will be done. The introduction to Samuel says that the Revised Standard Version has done very well with a difficult text. "Only a few additional corrections have been suggested in the course of the Exegesis."

A well-known statesman asked a group of us what we thought he should read in the area of religion. After some discussion he asked to have *The Interpreter's Bible* sent to him. It was pretty well agreed, however, that he should have some one of us who appreciate what it stands for, help him get started. Every volume makes a deeper impression because of the growing appreciation all of us feel for the earlier issues. Dr. Martin Rist of Iliff has part in the last volume in the series. It is to be free to those who have bought the first eleven. His friends ask him questions about why he is in the free one. But the question most of us will need to feel embarrassed about if we cannot answer is, "How does *The Interpreter's Bible*, the sign of our deepening unity in the Christian Church, help you?"

H. F. C.

The Bible Comes Alive by Sir Charles Marston, F.S.A. Fleming H. Revell Company. 224 pages; sixteen plates. \$2.50.

Here is a masterpiece of archaeological reporting which proves beyond question, the validity of the Old Testament. What was once thought to be "oral tradition" is now known to be part of the written history of the Hebrew people.

Sir Charles Marston presents in this book his findings dug up at ancient Lachish. Among them is the beautiful "blue Lachish bowl," on which are letters of an advanced Hebrew script dated 1295 B.C. These letters furnished the clue to the translation of the "Lachish Letters."

From these findings the truth is established that even in the days of Moses, the Hebrews were writing their history and faith in an alphabetical script.

The author also established the thesis that monotheism was not original with the Hebrews, but was in evidence in Sumerian religion many years before man became a polytheist. Man had one god, then many gods, and finally through a long process of religious culture, arrived at his theistic concept of One God.

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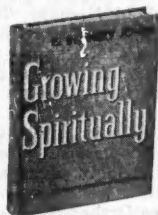
attaining health in body and mind.

The pages are generously spiced with stories of Dr. Jones's missionary and evangelistic activities in the United States, Japan and India. The book is also gently seasoned with humor. For an example, read about the little boy in New Haven in Week 43, Wednesday.

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ing the history of the Old Testament until he has read this book. It is so well written that you will want to complete the book in one sitting.

J. C. L.

Right and Wrong Ways to Use the Bible by J. Carter Swaim. The Westminster Press. 176 pages. \$2.50.

This volume by the professor of New Testament literature and exegesis, Western Theological Seminary, contains ten chapters of excellently written information upon the right and wrong ways of approach to the correct interpretation of our Christian scriptures. Each chapter is liberally saturated with concrete words, texts, and illustrations which bring to the reader the true interpretation of God's Word. Each chapter has a Bible verse as its heading.

The first three chapters establish the pattern of the entire book. These three provocative questions are asked: "How Do You Read?" "Do You Understand What You Read?" "Do You Know Greek?"

When one reflects for a moment and remembers the many times he has heard the Word of God interpreted in a manner so as to prove some "pet theory," he will certainly agree that the need for this book is paramount.

If you are interested in cultivating the right approach to scriptural interpretation and thus avoid many of the common, accepted errors, we suggest you add this valuable volume to your "desk library."

J. C. L.

The Church

The Great Tradition of the American Churches by Winthrop S. Hudson. Harper & Brothers. 282 pages. \$3.75.

The author is connected with the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. The purpose of his book is to demonstrate "that churches tend to flourish and become strong and influential when they are subjected to the coercion of a purely voluntary status . . . that complete voluntarism alone is not an automatic guarantee of the health and vitality of the churches . . . it is only in terms of their distinctiveness that the churches are able to participate creatively and constructively in the shaping of the society and its culture."

In eleven stimulating chapters the author works out his contention in historical terms. Lyman Beecher fought to the last ditch against the disestablishment of Congregationalism in Connecticut, but when it came he quickly changed his opinion. The great tradition of our churches is this freedom from state control. But since the turn of the century the churches have failed in their distinctive contribution to American life. At least that is the author's contention and he sees serious dangers as a result.

This reviewer is not willing to admit this failure. In a sense, of course, the churches have been failing since New Testament times. Now, in this mid-century, there is ground for both assurance and disappointment over the contemporary impress of American Protestantism. With the author's advocacy of the restoration of discipline in

parish life the reviewer would agree. All in all this study of a great tradition can be highly recommended. There are fifteen pages of notes and index.

F. F.

The Mission of the Local Church by Paul Rowntree Clifford. SCM Press. 120 pages. (Available by subscription only; see below.)

This is another of the British Religious Book Club volumes, sold only by subscription, six books for \$4.00. Now arrangements have been made to handle all such subscriptions through Alec R. Allenson, Inc., 81 Van Buren Street, Chicago 5, for folk in America.

These are all small volumes, very meaty, inexpensive only in price. This one, by the head of the West Ham Central Mission in the East End of London, is a new approach to the church. He brings his thesis to bear upon the local church, where, after all, ecumenicity has to come sooner or later.

Three chapters of theology, "The Divine Society," "Worship," and "The Sacraments," are followed by four more on the church in history, in community, in family, and in the wider fellowship. The author knows both the church at large and the local church. Hence, he well presents the true mission of the church at the grassroots.

H. W. F.

Theology

Major Voices in American Theology by David Wesley Soper. Westminster Press. 217 pages. \$3.50.

At first glance it seems incredible that anyone should attempt to telescope into one book a summation of the thought of six major theologians of our time. Yet Mr. Soper does just that, and delightfully. He peers into the minds of these theological giants: Edwin Lewis, Reinhold Niebuhr, Nels F. S. Ferre, Paul Tillich, H. Richard Niebuhr, and Robert L. Calhoun—and transcribes for us a clear synopsis of their world-embracing systems of thought.

This little book includes interesting "vignettes of life" about each man; a classification of the thought of each as somewhere beyond the Modernist-Fundamentalist-Neo-Orthodox wilderness of controversy of yesteryear; and a characterization of each man in his role as a modern prophet of Christianity. While no substitute for the writings of the six theologians themselves, *Major Voices in American Theology* is at least a good short-hand account of the "great conversation" being carried on among them.

In the chapter on "The Evangelical Theology of Edwin Lewis," the author portrays the dual metaphysics of his man, and concludes: "The thoughtful critic may or may not reject Lewis' split infinity, but he cannot fail to stand up and cheer Lewis' ethical seriousness. . . . In a sense religion is always forced to choose between an adequate metaphysics, and an adequate ethics."

Reinhold Niebuhr's theology is compared by Soper to the cry of a John the Baptist, "pronouncing doom on the perennially false." His is a "prophet's

conscience," continually reminding the United States to "consider both its divine assignment and its human sin." The weakness of Niebuhr's position is his minimizing of the power of Divine Love. To him "the insufficiency of man" becomes also "the insufficiency of God." A corrective voice—a voice speaking Grace—is needed.

Nels F. S. Ferre supplies that voice, counteracting Niebuhr's negativism with emphasis on the sufficiency of God. The chapter on Ferre is a beckoning invitation to explore further the tremendous range and depth of his thought. But one stops short of Ferre's belief in "inevitable universal salvation"; which it seems to me is a concept that is "beyond the boundary line of faith."

The book does a particularly fine bit of summation with "the bridge building theology of Paul Tillich." He is a theologian uniting apparent opposites with architecturally magnificent bridges of ideas. "Without direct dependence upon either Reinhold Niebuhr or Nels F. S. Ferre, he united the critical theology of the one with the postcritical theology of the other, and transcends both. He unites the ethical dualism of Edwin Lewis with the metaphysical monism of Nels F. S. Ferre, and corrects both. He unites a questioning philosophy and an answering theology in holy wedlock. He unites the Protestant principle with the Catholic faith, transcendence with immanence, Europe with America, liberalism with orthodoxy, atheism with theism, the past with the present, and the present with the future." How he does this one must read and see! Christ is the keystone of all the bridges.

The theology of Reinhold's brother, H. Richard Niebuhr, our author describes as the "Theology of Hope." That hope is that the Christian faith can effect a quiet revolution, a conversion or transformation of culture, which will ultimately see "the manifestation of the Community of Love." Niebuhr's latest and definitive work, *Christ and Culture*, explores five possible attitudes of the Christian toward the world: exclusion, accommodation, synthesis, paradox, or conversion. The latter is possible, because "The world of culture, man's achievement, exists within the world of grace, God's Kingdom."

From the few books and many essays of Robert L. Calhoun, Mr. Soper deduces his "Theology of Work." He is a mediator, bringing back together Christianity and the daily work of the world; a "theological marriage broker" arranging the union of the Church and the proletariat in modernity. Calhoun's belief is that "the Church . . . with its faith grounded in the living God, whose Spirit moves still within his half-finished creation, can by its very existence as faithful Church help the world to find the way. The Church must seek to realize yet more fully its own growing unity of spirit, to bring into its communion of faith and love an even more inclusive company of God's children, and to make its own awareness of divine judgment and forgiveness pervade, like widening daylight, the whole tortured life of our time."

David Wesley Soper succeeds, I

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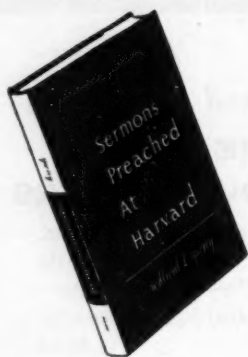
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The publication of **SERMONS PREACHED AT HARVARD** this year is a fitting tribute to a long and distinguished Christian career. For thirty-one years Willard L. Sperry has been Dean of the Divinity School of Harvard University. He retires this year. **\$2.50**

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think, in summarizing quite succinctly the thought of these major theologians of our time.

A. W. R.

The Gospel of the Spirit by Ernest C. Colwell and Eric L. Titus. Harper & Brothers. 190 pages. \$2.50.

The senior author of this volume, Dr. Colwell, has already published an excellent study in 1936 entitled *John Defends the Gospel*. He now, in collaboration with Dr. Titus of the University of Southern California, presents this interpretation of the Gospel of John. The reviewer is especially interested in this study since he had the privilege of hearing a number of years ago the senior author's analysis in his graduate course in John's Gospel. There has been a mature and intellectually stimulating development in thought.

The authors begin with a statement of the religious values of the Gospel. They show how in this Gospel the essential fact of the Jesus of history becomes the content of the Christ of faith. The authors believe that John's Gospel was written as the Gospel—not just another story of the life, teachings and death of Jesus. They give it a second century date. They believe that the writer of the Fourth Gospel used Mark and Luke as basic sources and that he may have used Matthew. However, they are not too sure of the use of Matthew's Gospel.

The authors hold that the doctrine of the Spirit is the central and controlling idea in the theology of the Gospel as a whole. This is contrary to the position held by E. F. Scott, who in his *Fourth Gospel: Its Purpose and Theology*, insisted that the doctrine of the spirit has no real place in the theology of the Gospel. Moreover, these authors conclude that the writer was no sacramentalist as so many New Testament scholars believe. These writers go so far as to say that "the Fourth Gospel represents a reaction to an increasing suppression of spontaneous religious experience through the substitution of an ex opere operato sacramental ritual." The revelation of God is described by the writer of John's Gospel not as a philosopher but as a religious leader.

Indeed this is as the publisher claims, "a fresh and penetrating interpretation." To some it will be too much a deviation from conventional study of John's Gospel. To many others—and the reviewer is in this group—this volume will give new and important insights into a Gospel which needs just such a frank, honest and sincere study.

W. L. L.

Living in Today's World

India and the Awakening East by Eleanor Roosevelt. Harper & Brothers. 237 pages. \$3.00.

This is an account of Mrs. Roosevelt's trip to India in the spring of 1952. Her purpose was to acquaint herself with the stresses and conditions under which the people of the East are living as a gradual awakening is taking place. The book is written with sympathy for the problems of the new nations in that part of the world. It gives in plain

language brief summaries of the circumstances that led up to the tense situations between such nations as Israel and Jordan, India and Pakistan.

I particularly enjoyed Mrs. Roosevelt's clear-sighted analyses of what the differing nations must bring themselves to do eventually if they wish to really improve the lot of the common people. A reading of the book will explain the bases for some of the Communist leanings of the people of these lands. It appears to me that there is but a fine line that is keeping the Eastern world from going definitely Communist. A strong questioning of the motives of the United States and other United Nations makes aid to these countries difficult.

Mrs. Roosevelt writes in her easy to read style, and were it not for the meaty facts she emphasizes, one would think they were reading a pleasant travel diary.

N. L. H.

A Handbook of Christian Truth by Harold Lindsell and Chas. J. Woodbridge. Fleming H. Revell Co. 351 pages. \$3.50.

This book might well be called "Great Things of the Christian Faith," for that is what it is. The book is divided into ten parts, which might have been better in three parts, for it seems that there are three distinct things covered.

Part One has for its subject "The Bible." In it the author discusses what the Bible is, and its inspiration. He gives reasons why we believe the Bible, shows how to study it, and brings out the drama in it.

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Part III covers "The Human Predicament and Its Solution." The author discusses, in this part, creation, sin, law of God, judgments of God, his grace and forgiveness.

Parts IV and V cover the "Person and Ministry of Jesus" and the "Doctrine of Salvation." In these sections Christ is discussed as to his place in prophecy, his earthly career, his birth, and sinlessness. The resurrection, the ascension, and the second coming are also discussed here. Under "The Doctrine of Salvation," the authors discuss atonement, redemption, repentance, faith, regeneration, justification, and assurance.

The rest of the book is taken up with the general subject of "The Believer." The believer's outreach, his relationship to the church, his ultimate destiny, and his resources, are discussed in this part of the book.

This book is a fine exposition of the real knowledge a Christian should have in order to make his life as much like Christ as possible. Reading, or rather studying, this book will certainly increase both the knowledge and the faith of a Christian. Many questions the Christian asks are answered in this book.

A. H. J.

Religion for Vital Living by Thomas S. Kepler. The World Publishing Com-

pany. 113 pages. \$2.50.

The author is professor of New Testament in the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin College and to the students of that institution he dedicates this book. He has become widely known among Christian groups in recent years through two previous studies, *A Journey With the Saints* and *Jesus, Spiritual Journey—and Ours*.

In the opening sentence of his preface Dr. Kepler states his purpose. "This book is an attempt to translate various values and ideas of the Christian faith into an idiom for twentieth century individuals." This attempt he carries out in six chapters which are revealed in their headings: "On Coming of Age Religiously"; "How Can I Get Along With Myself?"; "Called to Be Saints"; "What Is the Ethic of Jesus?"; "The Problem of Modernizing Jesus"; and "How Big Is a Christian's World?"

Apt illustrations and quotations from thinkers both ancient and modern can be found on almost every page. Ministers will find suggestions for sermons. Those who are puzzled over the application of a first century faith in a twentieth century world will be helped in their thinking and living. The book justifies its title.

F. F.

The Making of a Moron by Niall Brennan. Sheed & Ward. 189 pages. \$2.50.

Niall Brennan, an Australian now living in London, learned that folk of moronic intelligence were able to go into factories during war years, do the work of supposedly normal folk even better than they had in many instances, and find themselves in doing "normal" work. But what did that mean to "normal" people, to see morons doing their work, only better?

To find out, Brennan sought various kinds of jobs. He tells his experiences with amazing interest: in a paper mill, a wholesale fruit market, several offices, both private and governmental, and a department store, among others. He suggests that the most deadening to a man's spirit is in the department store—only weak, amiable folk would take such servile jobs!—while that which is most stimulating is in the crafts.

His conclusions are not to be brushed off. For example, completely manual work is excellent, he says, for morons and students: the first not having to think, the second being able to think! So the religious long ago found out that meditation is much simpler when working in a garden. Brennan says the finest way to think is with a woodpile before one, and an axe in one's hands. I agree with him.

More, Brennan shows that a workman must know what he is doing and must do it from free choice. Few know both. Unless both are there, the whole man is not employed, only a half-man. His entire thesis, documented with illustrations largely from his own experience, is that we must BE and not SEEM in our work, whatever it may be. So we would rather SEEM to be successful as a white-collar worker

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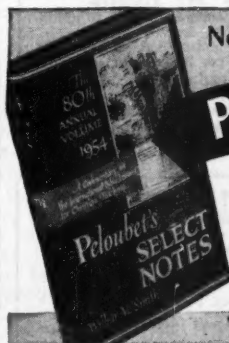
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H. W. F.

A Pattern for Life: An Exposition of the Sermon on the Mount by Archibald M. Hunter. The Westminster Press. 124 pages. \$2.00.

Some time ago the reviewer described on these pages of *Church Management* a book written by Dr. Hunter. It was *Interpreting the New Testament, 1900-1950*. The author, who at that time was Yates Professor of New Testament Greek at Mansfield College, Oxford University, gave a concise but excellent survey of New Testament scholarship during the past half century. Today as professor of New Testament at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, he offers a popular study of the Sermon on the Mount.

Dr. Hunter's principal theme is the title of the book as it appeared in the British Isles—"design for life." In three chapters, forming part one of the book, Dr. Hunter discusses what he calls "the making, manner and matter of the Sermon." Here the author outlines how he thinks the Sermon was composed, gives a detailed exposition of it, and offers an explanation of its meaning. Part two, which does not carry a chapter number, is an exegesis of the Sermon. To the reviewer this part of the book is the most important. It will reward any church school teacher to read this section. It is a verse by verse commentary upon this great Sermon. Some excellent homiletic illustrations may be found here. The last three chapters, forming part three, give six ways of interpreting the Sermon. These six ways are six New Testament scholars' views. The author finds that the Sermon on the Mount is not the sum of the Gospel. It is to use the author's own phrase "a design for living for the man who accepts the Gospel."

Here is a book for the minister who is about to give a course on the Sermon on the Mount. It will be of value to anyone seeking a fuller understanding of Jesus' great Sermon. It contains an index for names and places and also one for Biblical passages.

W. L. L.

Biography

Hilaire Belloc: No Alienated Man by Frederick Wilhelmsen. Sheed & Ward. 108 pages. \$2.75.

Frederick Wilhelmsen is professor of philosophy at Santa Clara University. Believing that in Hilaire Belloc is the symbol of the integrated man, he gives this "metaphysica of the concrete" that we may see in an unintegrated age how man can be whole.

Though neither criticism nor biography, it is a revelation of the personality of Belloc by one who admires him greatly. It is a deep, thoughtful and tough presentation in language of the scholastics of the English Catholic genius. Not for the untrained reader,

it will have little popularity; but for students of Belloc and the Church it will have meaning.

H. W. F.

The Reluctant Healer: A Remarkable Autobiography by William J. MacMillan. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 243 pages. \$3.50.

Strange that the subtitle should say "A Remarkable Autobiography," and yet it is that very thing. MacMillan went to England twenty-five years ago to take his third year in seminary there, before being ordained an Episcopal priest. At a social gathering a medium, one Endor, told MacMillan that he was a healer. The hostess was suffering from a severe sinus attack, and under the direction of the medium, MacMillan rubbed the infected area with his hands, then made several "passes" before her face. She was immediately relieved of all pain.

The remainder of this volume tells how MacMillan fought against this power of healing, yet how he used it through the years. His technique never differed. Always he rubbed (not quite a massage, but similar) the infected or diseased area, then made the general "passes." But he did heal folk, and has these past years. Giving up his idea of being a minister, he set up offices in England, London some of the time, suburbs other times; and this is the story.

Far too much detail is in it concerning immaterial things such as the food at certain gatherings, the people there, the incidentals that pad the volume. This reviewer would like to know more about the several times when a strong sense of a fragrant perfume permeated MacMillan, to disappear after a few hours; or how he used the clairvoyant powers that later came to him. Nevertheless, it is a "remarkable" tale of the strange power that came to one man.

H. W. F.

Paul by Martin Dibelius and Werner George Kummel. Westminster Press. 172 pages. \$2.50.

Here is a scholarly work in simple language about the perennially inspiring, though controversial figure, Paul the Apostle. The two authors trace the influence of Paul in all revivals of Christian theology, concluding that he had much to do with them. They examine the historicity of the Book of Acts, and the genuineness of Paul's letters. They accept the Lukan authorship of Acts, though rating it rather low in historical value. The pastoral epistles—to Timothy and Titus—are rejected as un-Pauline. But the value of Paul's conversion experience is accepted for its full worth. His whole life as an Apostle to the Gentiles flows from that decisive event.

The importance of Paul's theological thought, according to Dibelius lies in this: "He succeeded . . . in safeguarding the Christian message from the return of Jewish legalism as well as from disintegration into a mere religion of sacraments, because he repeatedly stressed the indissoluble connection between faith and God's act of salvation. That is why Paul the theologian has become the standard by which

all Christian thought must be tested."

The latter part of the book, for which Dr. Kummel is solely responsible, shows Paul's struggles against Jewish Christians who wanted to return to their old legalism, and against those who were tempted to syncretize Christianity with pagan practices. "In the struggle . . . Paul upheld with complete consistency his Lord's cause, the commission that he had accepted on his conversion, and thereby kept the message of God's saving work from being perverted by emphasis on human works or by trust in human piety."

The allusion to work in Spain is accepted as eventually performed, as well as the traditional account of his death.

This book may take its place as another worthy study of the life and influence of Paul.

A. W. R.

Church School

Guiding Workers in Christian Education by Frank M. McKibben. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 160 pages. \$1.75.

This is another book in the splendid series of leadership training textbooks issued by the Cooperative Publication Association.

Dr. McKibben, who is a recognized authority in this field, makes a strong and convincing plea for better supervision in the religious education program of our churches. So keen has the competition become for the time and attention of our children, and so high have the standards been set by our public education system, that the church, he claims, must constantly be improving its technique and its personnel if it hopes to achieve any degree of success in its task.

Although Dr. McKibben advocates trained and professional supervisors, he does not minimize the role of ministers in the educational work of the church. After admitting that there are "great traditions" for the minister to emulate as preachers, pastors and shepherds of souls, he affirms that "the tradition of the minister as a great educator and teacher is yet to be established." All the more surprising is such a statement when it is remembered that the Divine Commission insists that we go and teach.

This book was published primarily for use in training schools where devoted Christian workers can get a better acquaintance with the high standards which the average church should seek to achieve. It, however, is a compact and handy manual for every minister to have as a ready reference in his library.

J. S.

53 Nature Sunday Talks to Children by Joseph A. Schofield, Jr. W. A. Wilde Company. 189 pages. \$2.00.

Mr. Schofield, who is a prolific writer of children's talks has turned to nature for the theme of this book. He is, however, very emphatic in asserting that this volume is not intended as a nature study book, but as a "series of religious talks to boys and girls on topics suggested by nature themes."

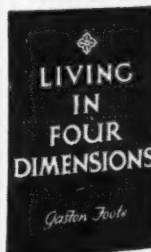
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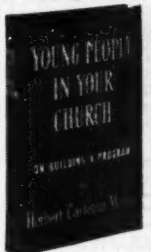
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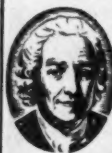
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be Bible-centered in its approach. No attempt is made to polish up the sentences and present the stories as literary nuggets. Mr. Schofield has apparently had these stories published just as they were spoken, trying as best he could to make them intimate, informal and direct. Many of the stories were written with specific events in mind such as Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, Communion Sunday, and Missions Sunday.

J. S.

Other

The Mouse Hunter by Lucile Hasley. Sheed & Ward. 242 pages. \$2.75.

Earlier **Reproachfully Yours** revealed the candy-like humor of Lucile Hasley. Here we have something added to the "cute" essays of that earlier book, though again she writes some fifteen for this volume, plus a series of "dibs and dabs." But new are five short stories, the last of them giving the title to this volume.

I am sure she must be most popular with women. There is a cuteness of style that becomes cloying to this reviewer (though he must admit the writer intrigues him, and he would like to meet her some day! She has a sudden and sharp sense of humor, but without barbs. Because she can laugh at herself so easily, she does not write with poisoned pen.). Nevertheless, a turn of phrase every now and then does certainly tell just what she wants to label a person!

The short stories are fun, the final one the best to me. Father Mackey unlike his seminarian classmates is sent to an innocuous parish. While they are hunting wild beasts on the side in their jungle parishes, he is being baited by a parishioner. But he too is a hunter. Daily he unloads the mouse trap, and the clean shot that ends the tale (not a drop of blood on the trap!) relieves his frustration. Only an incident, true enough, but brought to life.

H. W. F.

Altar or Communion Table

(From page 71)

churches, whose nature is that of fellowship of a company of believing Christians, properly have the communion table set in the midst of the people. This symbolizes their belief.

In neither case would altar or table be used as a convenient repository for flowers, alms, basins, or what not; such use would also symbolize the shallowness of the Christian faith expressed in the church.

It would seem that architects and those planning church structures would take into account this difference, for the structure and appointments of a church building reveal a great deal about the belief of the church, its sense of mission in the world and its ministry to the twentieth century.

Gardner D. Cottle,
Bellows Falls, Vermont

Fiction for Ministers

Good fiction offers entertainment, instruction and illustrations for sermons and addresses. The best of current fiction will be noted in this column.

James R. Uhlinger, minister, Wesley Methodist Church, Worcester, Massachusetts, is the reviewer.

THE time was not so long ago when the American best-selling fiction list was as far from the Protestant pulpit as the East is from the West. Times have changed radically and swiftly. This month the reviews follow in order the fall listing of best-selling fiction.

Beyond This Place by A. J. Cronin. Little, Brown and Company. \$3.75.

Heading the fiction sales in the leading bookstores of the nation is Dr. A. J. Cronin's latest novel. The moral law and religious motivations are never lacking in the popular works of this Scotch doctor turned novelist. His parents were Scotch Presbyterian and Roman Catholic but they made a vow at marriage that neither priest or preacher should interfere with the happiness of their marriage.

Beyond This Place presents Paul Burgess at the threshold of life suddenly confronted with the fact that his real name is Paul Mathey and that his father is a life term murderer in prison. From dumb shock Paul moves relentlessly to the prison and the tangled threads of the past that had convicted his father.

The solution is not simple. Pressures are exerted to thwart his attempts to solve the riddle. Only his moral courage and conviction that truth must prevail carry Paul toward the victory of reclaiming his father. Characteristic of Cronin, a somewhat subdued love interest in the person of Lena Anderson is part of the fight for his father's freedom.

It is the preacher's problem: good against evil, justice over error and pressure, the redemption of the innocent man who has been wronged.

Time and Time Again by James Hilton. Little, Brown and Company. \$3.75.

James Hilton of *Good Bye Mr. Chips* fame has the novel in number two spot among the best-sellers.

Time and Time Again ties up with Mr. Hilton's greatest story by taking Charles Anderson from Schoolmaster Chips' classroom here and there through the world in his career or the British Foreign Service. Embassy and legation life is portrayed in Paris, London and South America with some Connecticut scenes added for good measure.

The narrative is not of the exceptional, but of the ordinary approaching the "stuffy" as far as the American mind is concerned. Good writing,

varied scenes and interesting experiences are woven together to create a book well worth reading.

Too Late the Phalarope by Alan Paton. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.50.

The resounding impact of Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* on American church life and the English speaking world is the prelude to the prominence of this book which is fourth in American sales.

Seething South Africa is the core of the race-color revolution of this century. Certainly Alan Paton is first novelist in the interpretation of the struggle.

The moral law is the central factor with Alan Paton. In *Cry, the Beloved Country*, one of the greatest novels of our time, it was the law of the tribe which had been broken. *Too Late the Phalarope* describes psychologically and pathetically the breakdown of the moral law within a man's soul. The crime of theft and murder in the earlier book gives way to the inner chaos of lust and infidelity in the current book.

Pieter van Vlaanderen not only violates his own honor, but as a South African he is involved with a Negro woman which in turn invokes the Immorality Act that seeks to hold the races in check.

The same poetic narrative form is found in *Too Late the Phalarope* but the pleasure of reading succumbs to the tense, coarse material. Students of literature will enjoy the usage of the classical Greek form of tragedy in which a single flaw in the chief character's mind results in overt crime and by implication involves the whole race.

Come My Beloved by Pearl S. Buck. The John Day Company. \$3.75.

India is the setting for Pearl Buck's contemporary book among the top-sellers. *Come My Beloved*, like many of her previous books, is squarely within the framework of the Protestant Church. It succeeds in presenting an interesting, readable insight into missions in India today.

Wealthy David MacArd of America had pity for India and decided to found a theological school to train men for missionary service there. When his only son, David Jr., determines to invest his life in India the father's philanthropic dreams fade.

The heart of the novel unfolds the experiences of David and his wife Olivia and their son Theodore in the work of the church in India. For theme the book uses the *Pilgrim's Progress* of three men in their search for spiritual reality in God—David Sr., David Jr., and Theodore.

The Dark Angel by Mika Waltari. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.75.

The brilliant historical novel of interest to churchmen is the dramatic story of the fall of Constantinople in the days of Emperor Constantine XI. Mika Waltari's gifted descriptive powers revealed in *The Egyptian* are not diminished in *The Dark Angel* with its swiftly moving picture of Christianity in the East during the fifteenth century.

Church history comes alive on the American book counters.



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Tips on Buying a Tape Recorder

by William H. Hunter*

HERE are a few specifications you should have in mind when buying a tape recorder, or possibly principles:

1. As a rule, the faster your tape moves across the recording and playback head, the greater the tone fidelity. The best all-round speed is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches per second. Machines come at $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches per second, but they are good mainly for speech; music is not as good, particularly for high fidelity playbacks, or for radio work. There are also 15 inches per second machines, but these are mainly for extremely technical work, and tend to be prohibitively costly. I strongly recommend the $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch speed. At this speed, a reel of 2400 feet of tape runs about 30 minutes.

2. As a rule, the wider the exposed tape area, the better the tone fidelity. Most tape, itself, comes about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide. When the tape is recorded—and played—in one direction only, usually the full $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide band is magnetized and hence producing the tonal effects wanted. Many machines on the market record and play back two ways, which means that $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch of tape (or slightly less) is magnetized with a given signal. Ordinarily, this cuts into your tonal fidelity, though it naturally doubles the playing time of the tape.

3. If you wish to edit your tape, by splicing, it is virtually imperative that you do one of two things: (a) use double-track tape recorders in one direction only, or (b) use only single-track tape recorders. Personally, I do a lot of work with tape recordings which require editing, and also a higher degree of fidelity of tone (mainly music), so I wouldn't consider any recorder of a speed less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches per second and with a recording band less than approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Most manufacturers of tape recorders manufacture under a patent license, and so, basically, all operate on the same principle. Also, most manufacturers make various types of machines for many purposes. I'd hate to specify which is best. I'm pleased with mine, but it's tricky to operate. Personally, I see little difference between machines, of comparable specifications.

I feel, though, that if you ask your dealer for a good standard make of a tape recorder which will record and

play back at $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches per second, which is a single track recorder, sensitizing virtually all the magnetic surface; while you may find your machine costs you somewhat more than others, you'll have a fine, all-purpose machine, and you'll produce tapes of a quality most radio stations would gladly play on the air.

I realize I've over-simplified my answer, but perhaps with this to go on, you can buy a machine which will suit your needs.

Should you be using tapes you have made for candidating purposes, at any time, let me give you an additional piece of advice: Be sure to warn your far-off hearers that they should not judge your pulpit voice too critically unless they have extremely good playback facilities, with a 12-inch speaker or better, and with a relatively high tone fidelity. Your tape will have an amazing range of tonal possibilities—almost equalling perfection—but unless your amplifier and speaker are adequate, you'll lose out on that score. But, if your pulpit committee, so warned, will discount mechanical difficulties, and concentrate on your subject matter, on your cadence, etc., things the recording will bring out with startling brilliance—you will have a fair hearing.

Dually Used Property

(From page 74)

tices that the court had previously declared, in similar cases, that there was no right to exemption if part of a building were used for an unexempt purpose. But the four justices in this case, who constituted the majority, decided that the amendatory act of 1949 called for a valuation of the basement and first floor as a separate and exempt entity and the second floor as a distinct entity; making the latter taxable at its valuation. (Trustees of Church of God of Cleveland v. Board of Tax Appeals, 112 N. E. 2d 633.)

The court seems to leave unsettled such questions as whether for separate valuation purposes the roof is to be deemed a part of the second story only, and whether the laundry in the basement is to be regarded as an appurtenance of the second floor.

*Minister First Presbyterian Church, Robinson, Illinois.

First Things First

A Sermon for Children

by John Schott*

PHILIP ROSS and his wife Emily, who are deeply in love with each other, wisely realize that they should make plans for every eventuality. They, therefore, make their way to a lawyer's office to draw up their wills. Emily's eyes are moist with tears, for the very thought of death distresses her. Although Philip is leaving all of his earthly goods to her, she insists that he make a generous arrangement for two maiden cousins as well as a proportionately large sum for a convalescent home where he recently had been a patient.

Twenty years later Mr. and Mrs. Ross return to the same office. During the intervening years Mr. Ross has been very successful in business and realizes that a new will is necessary. But this time his wife Emily does not come reluctantly, for she is no longer the naive, embarrassed, deeply romantic wife of former years. Nor does she for a minute hesitate in discussing the will. Philip chides her for talking so glibly about his death, saying, "One would think you looked to my dying next week." Over the years Emily has become quite selfish in her thinking, and as a result, feels that his maiden cousins as well as the hospital should not be left so much money. Philip, however, is determined to bequeath a large sum of money to them and especially to this medical institution. But his motive is very questionable, for he says, "I want to make a splash with the hospitals."

There is another long interval of time. Mr. Ross now walks slowly and alone into the lawyer's office. He has become an extremely wealthy man and has been knighted by the king, but in spite of it all, he is broken in spirit. His wife is dead, and to use his own words, his son is a rotter, while his daughter has run off with the chauffeur. Handing his attorney a slip of paper he says in a most bitter and brutal manner, "Here, take this. It has the names and addresses of the half-dozen men I've fought with most for gold; and I've beaten them. Draw up a will leaving all my money to be divided be-

*Presbyterian Church, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

(Turn to page 96)

Retrace the steps of the Saviour

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This new book of sermons offers no easy way to solve your problems—but it offers a sure way, the way of Jesus. The discussion and suggestions are closely related to life on a down-to-earth level for both laymen and ministers. The themes, which glorify Christ and His Word by means of the biblical material used, are basic to life and are treated in a very sane, intelligent and helpful manner. "YOU"

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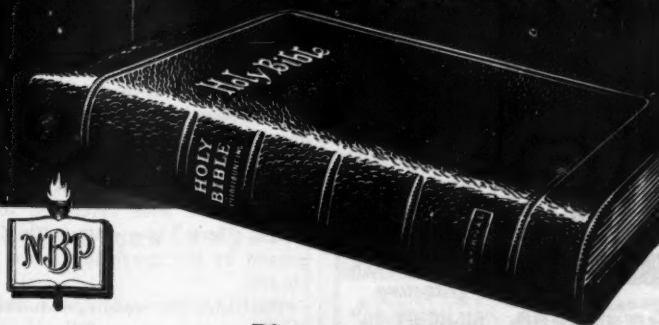
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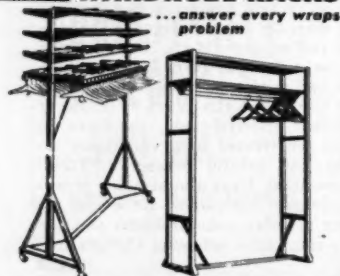
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The Church Wedding

by Horace Craig Casey *

MARRIAGES may sometimes be made in heaven, but church weddings frequently develop into anything but heavenly enterprises. The uninitiated minister may fondle his seminary diploma with the feeling that he has the solution to all the church problems that could arise, but he has heard little about church weddings, as a general thing. He soon discovers that many of those who engage a church for a wedding are unaware of a great many religious principles that should go into one of the most important rites of the church. He may soon discover that some of his predecessors compromised religious convictions to avoid offense to some influential family.

Actually, most families want to do the right sort of thing, but with the encouragement of friends and suggestions from books on etiquette, with florists who want to make a profit and a good impression, and from sellers of trousseaux, they become terribly involved before they realize it.

The writer struggled through almost a hundred weddings before deciding he had to do something about them or lose his sanity, his religion, or leave the ministry. Believing that the majority of his people would gladly cooperate with him if he could demonstrate both sound judgment, a sense of good taste, and an air of knowing what he was talking about, he started to work, putting down on paper, guides for the conduct of church weddings.

The Rules

First of all, a committee was chosen to devise rules for the use of the church. This committee consisted of representatives from the official boards and women's organizations of the church. Rules were adopted for the use of the entire church for all events that could occur. A special set of rules was adopted with reference to weddings. These rules were officially approved by the governing board of the church.

The rules for weddings in this particular church are as follows:

The church sanctuary is not a hall; nor a public auditorium. It is a sanctuary dedicated to God. All things

* Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Enid, Oklahoma.

which take place in it must be in keeping with the high purpose to which it was dedicated.

No wedding can be held in the church sanctuary when either party has been divorced or anywhere in the church or by the pastor when either party has been divorced for less than a year.

Arrangements for all weddings must be made directly with the pastor. In his absence, these may be made through a secretary. The pastor shall officiate at all marriages in the church, except in unusual situations when he shall be the sole judge as to whether another minister shall participate. The pastor does not establish a set fee. Since of all services provided by the church, the pastor's is the most important, this is to be the guiding principle. The pastor shall direct all rehearsals with the assistance of such person as may be mutually agreeable to him and to the bride.

The church cannot be rented. If either the bride or groom are members of the church, charges for the organist and caretaker will be \$15.00. If neither the bride nor groom are members of the church, the charge will be \$25.00, \$10.00 for organist, \$5.00 for caretaker and \$10.00 being utilities charge. These fees shall be paid to the financial secretary prior to the rehearsal.

For wedding receptions in the church parlors, the charge will be \$10.00 for the use of the parlor, and \$10.00 for the kitchen assistant. The \$10.00 charge for the parlor for wedding receptions shall be paid to the Women's Work; the \$10.00 for the kitchen assistant shall be paid to the financial secretary.

Photographs may not be taken during the ceremony proper. Consult with the pastor or his secretary as to what may be permitted.

The pulpit desk, lectern, communion table, altar-ware and flags shall not be moved or hidden from view under any circumstances for any wedding. No tacks or nails shall be used on any woodwork, or carpeting, or walls. Protective coverings must be placed under all candles wherever situated. Remuneration is to be made for any damage done.

There shall be no smoking in the sanctuary proper or in the foyer at any time. There shall be no drinking of any alcoholic beverages by any member of the wedding party immediately prior to the wedding.

All decorations shall be removed immediately following the ceremony. No decorations shall be put up to interfere in any way with any other activity of the church, such as regular church services and funerals.

The First Interview

Whenever a prospective bride appears for her first interview about a marriage, she is handed a copy of these rules. She is asked to read them and ask any questions concerning them. She learns that she cannot announce her wedding date and plans without consulting the pastor to see if there are any conflicts. Someone else may already have reserved the particular date she desires, or the church may have a meeting scheduled that cannot be shifted, or the pastor may have an engagement that cannot be changed.

She learns that some people, in decorating the church, think nothing of driving nails into fine church furniture, but would be horrified at such a thing in their own homes. She also learns that if she wants to decorate the church like a convention hall, she should rent the convention hall, and that nothing should be done that would cause anyone to forget for a moment that the place where the wedding is to be held is a church dedicated to the glory of God.

She also learns some things about professional ethics—regard for the local pastor, who is not to be shunted around for the sake of some personal nation. Of course, there are circumstances when another minister might enter into the picture. For sentimental reasons, the bride or groom might wish to use the services of the minister who officiated at the marriage of his or her parents; or one of the parties might have a close friend or relative who is a minister. But even then, there are courtesies that must be extended to the local minister. If the outside minister does not sense those courtesies in a natural fashion, he needs to be reminded of them. The local minister also should possess an understanding mind. He must understand that personal relations between a family in his church and another minister may be of such a nature that the other minister could be invited to officiate at a wedding with no reflection of any sort on the local pastor—as long as he is not ignored in the matter.

Also, there is the organist to be considered. Where the church has an organ valued at thousands upon thousands of dollars, and employs a skilled organist not only to play the instrument, but to be responsible for its care and to supervise its maintenance, it is understandable why the church organist or his assistant or approved substitute is required to be employed for church weddings. If there is a guest organist, he might do what one actually did to precipitate the rule in this church—

(Turn to page 98)



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Editorials

(From page 7)

that he had several blind spots in his reasoning. Isn't the thing we are really after the promotion of the practice of prayer rather than the preservation of any one type of prayer experience?

If that is true I feel that we are very well off in this regard. I feel quite sure that there is more individual praying going on at the present time than at any other period in modern history. That is one thing of which we can give some proof. The leaflets, books and prayer guides are selling at a tremendous number. I well remember, years ago, a visit with the late Dr. Grover C. Emmons in his Nashville office. He had just started his publication, *The Upper Room*, a guide for personal prayer. He told of placing copies on a table in the foyer of the church where his annual Methodist Conference was meeting. A printed card gave the invitation to leave a nickel and take a copy. Cautiously the coins were dropped on the table and a few dozen copies sold. From this humble beginning has grown the quarterly, *The Upper Room*, with a printing of two and one-half million copies.

Add to this the sale of a half dozen other quarterlies which render a similar service and I think that you will agree that there is a lot of individual prayer.

Also, there is a lot of group praying going on in our country. Prayer groups, classes and cells are spreading out over the land. In these groups very sincere men and women seek divine guidance and pray for their friends, their neighbors, and for their world. It is done modestly but unashamedly. The techniques of these prayer cells have added strength to many churches and thousands of individuals.

Still, again, I believe that the value of corporate prayer is appreciated today. Ministers are not hurrying over the prayers as their fathers did. The sermon may still be the main part of the Sunday service but the prayer is acquiring a new importance. With careful emphasis and enunciation the historic prayers of the church become verbal expressions of the highest beauty. Non-liturgical ministers who write their own prayers, and they should be carefully written before presentation, are searching their own souls as they prepare for this service.

I miss the old prayer meeting as I do the old-time family prayers. But while these institutions may be fading prayer today is very real—a great force for personal health and social happiness. Prayer is not decadent but new techniques are in the ascendency.

"The Brewers' Big Horses"

I HAVE often wondered how this old temperance song originated. Personally I have always rather admired the huge, carefully matched teams of horses which draw the brewers' trucks. Of course they have passed out as commercial aids and are now purely in the area of publicity. But there must have been a time, a generation or more ago, when drivers of beer trucks, inflated with their own importance, ignored the rights of pedestrians on the highway. Perhaps there were one or two bad accidents. So there was born the campaign song: "The brewers' big horse can't run over me."

Fred Waring in a recent visit to Cleveland made a television appearance. He was asked about his early adventures in entertainment. With apparent glee he told us that his first public appearance was at a temperance meeting at which he sang, as a solo, this dry song. The confession was somewhat embarrassing to the mistress of ceremonies as the program was sponsored by a brewing company. She quickly switched to another subject.

My story has been introduced. From now on it is a modern version of the people's protest against the brewers' big horses.

The scene is laid in the west side of Cleveland.

Here on one of the old streets is a church which bears the marks of age. For three generations it has served its members and the community. Now, after three generations, while many churches have been rushing to greener fields, the West Side Evangelical Church is spending more than \$200,000 to improve its educational facilities.

In this church there has been a telephone. Its number for years was ME1rose 1-1002. Remember this number, for it is important to the story. Local members of the church, women who worked at the dinners, children who attended its schools, officials who met to steer the program of the church all know the number well. When Johnny came home from school and found the house empty he was instructed to go to the phone and dial ME 1-1002; when a wife toiling over a church dinner wanted to inform her husband that he would eat at the church or get his own meal she left a message for him to call ME 1-1002. And in three generations the number of families who have called that number to ask the pastor to come quickly for an emergency could hardly be numbered.

(Turn to page 94)

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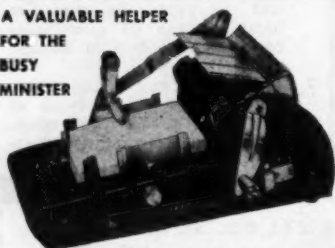
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CAN YOU DRINK THIS CUP?

Water From the Well of Bethlehem

*A Sermon by Kenneth Earl Ballard**

HAVE you ever watched men work-
 ing on an electric light system?

Recently they have been working
 on a pole near our house. Because
 there was more electric current pass-
 ing through one wire than it could
 carry, a transformer burned out and
 the workmen were putting in a new one.
 It meant considerable work, discon-
 necting parts, replacing, and recon-
 necting them. Even though the elec-
 tricians had every possible safety de-
 vice, they still undertook considerable
 risk as they worked with live electric
 wires. The electricity we use daily in
 our homes has been obtained for us at
 the risk of men's lives, and we give it
 little consideration.

One time King David wanted a drink
 of water from the well at the gate of
 Bethlehem. It was during a particu-
 larly fierce battle with the Phillistines
 and David had retired to his headquar-
 ters in a cave for rest. Being thirsty,
 he thought of the fresh, cool water of
 the Bethlehem well which he had often
 drunk. Some of his generals were with
 him, and desiring to please David, stole
 out and returned with the water.

As David held the cup to his lips,
 anticipating the taste of the water, his
 expression changed. Surprise, dismay
 showed on his features. Slowly, he
 brought the cup down from his face.
 Then he looked at his generals as real-
 ization of what they had done came
 upon him. Courage and even anger,
 mingled with pride and gratitude, over-
 whelmed David. Slowly, David tipped
 the cup in his hand and poured the
 cool, clear water out upon the dry
 ground. Out from between his parched
 lips, David forced his thoughts into
 speech.

Be it far from me, O Lord, that I
 should do this: is not this the blood of
 the men that went in jeopardy of their
 lives?

(I Chronicles 11:19)

The Phillistine armies stretched be-
 tween David and the well of Bethle-
 hem. In going through the enemy en-
 campments, the three men had twice
 risked their lives to bring David that
 drink of water. For David it was a
 rare experience to be offered that for

which men had risked their lives, but
 for us it is common.

Our homes are warm in winter be-
 cause down below us, in the cellar, the
 furnace is filled with brightly burning
 coal. By the car load and the truck
 load that coal has come into our com-
 munity summer and winter that we
 might be comfortable in our homes,
 churches, schools and factories. Little
 thought do we give to it until we learn
 that down in the coal pits of Pennsyl-
 vania a mine has caved in, and a dozen
 men are trapped underground. Should
 we let our furnace fires burn out, our
 houses remain cold, and coal remain
 unused in the bin? What comforts,
 advantages, advancements have not
 been brought to us at the risk of other
 men's lives. Daily we touch our lips
 to the cup and drink water from the
 well of Bethlehem.

Pasteur, Nightingale, Milton, Lin-
 coln, Schweitzer—how familiar are the
 names of those who have gone out
 across the dangerous armies of the
 Phillistines to bring us water from
 the well of Bethlehem. Science, medi-
 cine, literature, politics, social rela-
 tions—in every realm men have risked
 their lives for our advancement.

At what price have men brought
 Christianity to us? Men have gladly
 given up their financial security, their
 wealth, their jobs, their future, their
 prestige, and even their lives to bring
 Christianity to others.

We are deeply grateful for American
 freedom, but we would not have it if
 Washington had not turned his back
 on the comforts of Mount Vernon to
 face the rigors of Valley Forge. When
 James and John dropped the sail they
 were mending and left their father in
 the ship with the hired servants, they
 were leaving behind all the security of
 their whole lives. Christ had called to
 them and so they went after him. The
 well of Bethlehem can only be obtained
 through risk and sacrifice.

In 1858 at the Illinois Republican
 State Convention in Springfield, Abra-
 ham Lincoln started out through the
 Phillistine lines with these words: "A
 house divided against itself cannot
 stand. I believe this government can-
 not endure permanently half slave and
 half free." He reached the well of

*Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Blains-
 town, New Jersey.

Bethlehem safely, but was destroyed by the enemy on the return journey. But would Abraham Lincoln ever have been able to grasp the idea of human freedom for all people had it not been for Peter centuries before? Simon Peter was a fisherman to whom Jesus beckoned and said, "I will make you fishers of men." When he was at Joppa, Peter was commanded by God to go to the house of Cornelius to preach about Christ. And Peter helped formulate a new idea, even within Christianity: "Of a truth I perceived that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." Lincoln in a box at Ford's Theater, Peter upside down on a Roman cross—each risked, and lost his life to bring to mankind water from the well of Bethlehem.

Minister, professor of theology, church organist, writer, and medical student—almost all of these at the same time—Albert Schweitzer resigned all his posts, left his comfortable home and turned his back on his European popularity to start life anew in a cluster of bamboo huts along the African coast as a medical missionary. What was his motivation? The debt he owed to God, he felt, for providing him a good mind, friends, influence, respect; could only be repayed by sacrificial drudgery in God's work. Many had risked their lives to bring him water from the well of Bethlehem, and he had drunk deep and been refreshed. But Schweitzer could not accept the jeopardy of men's lives lightly. He too must risk his, to bring water to a thirsty world.

Let us look to Saul of Tarsus. Born when the Roman Empire ruled the world, he was fortunate enough to be born a Roman citizen—the password to private safety and public respect. At a time when the Greek culture was still at its height, Saul of Tarsus was lucky to have been born in a Greek city. When the Hebrew religion was known throughout the world and preparing for the coming of Christ into its midst, Saul of Tarsus was born a Jew. Freedom, wealth, prestige, learning—all these made Saul the most envied rabbinical scholar. But one day he opened his eyes anew upon the world and he went out across the plains, though the Phillistines lay in wait, that he might bring water from the well of Bethlehem—the water of life, Jesus called it—to others. And he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

In 1896 William Jennings Bryan lost his chance for the presidency of the United States because of his eloquent cry for economic reform. "You shall

(Turn to page 96)

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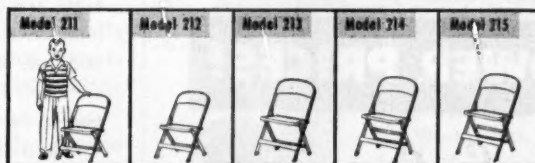
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Editorials

(From page 91)

Now, it happened that the church received a message from the Ohio Bell Telephone Company that its phone was being temporarily suspended because of a change of number. It is not, of course a major tragedy to have a change in telephone number. But even the most casual person, who has had one number for years wonders why he should lose something which has become so much a part of him. The official board discussed the matter at the meeting.

Let's stop a minute and see another picture. Not far from the West Side Evangelical Church is a great brewery. Among its prize products is what is known as Erin Brew. This beer had been improved by some process and a number was attached to its name. Over television and radio the announcers no longer spoke of Erin Brew. It now became "Erin Brew, one 0 0 two." (1002).

Possibly a publicity man then got an idea. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if the brewer could have a telephone number with the same number as the formula? Wouldn't it be a great thing if incoming calls could be answered by saying: "Erin Brew 1002?" Evidently the idea took hold.

Now back to the church picture. The officials are discussing reasons why they may have lost their telephone number. Suddenly one person has an idea.

"ME 1-1002, that's one of our numbers at the brewery," he said.

Then the church knew.

It was no longer West Side Evangelical Church ME 1-1002. It had now become Erin Brew 1002.

Up to this point it is just a good story. But now the big horses come into the picture. The editor found it a little hard to believe. First he dialed ME 1-1002 and asked for the minister of the West Side Evangelical Church. He was politely informed that the gentleman could not be reached at this number and was also given information as to the correct one to call.

Next the editor met rather casually one of the executives of the telephone company. The story was recited. It was all news to this man. He could not venture a reason for the change of numbers. It might have been some expansion movement by the telephone company, it may have been made for efficiency purposes; jokingly he said that the summer had been warm and most people would agree that in the warm months beer is more important than churches. But he finally got around to the

QUOTE:

"This one merits closer scrutiny than it's likely to get. Look at the Great ensemble, and the Swell; and a Pedal Organ with two 16's. Somebody used a lot of plain good sense in devising this solution to the money (and perhaps also space) problem."

T. SCOTT BUHRMAN, EDITOR,
THE AMERICAN ORGANIST

Baldwinsville, N. Y. — First Baptist Church

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Installed December, 1951
V-9, R-10, S-17, B-8, P-674

PEDAL: V-O, R-O, S-4

16 (Gedeckt-S)

(Viola-S)

8 (Gedeckt-S)

4 (Gedeckt-S)

SWELL: V-5, R-5, S-7

8 Gedeckt 97-16

Viola da Gamba 80-16'

Viole Celeste 56

4 Gemshorn 68

2 2/3 (Gedeckt)

2 (Gedeckt)

8 Oboe 68

COUPLERS 11:

Ped.: G. S-8-4

Gt.: G-16-8-4, S-16-8-4

Sw.: S-16-8-4

Crescendos 2:S. Register

Combons: 10: P-3, G-3, S-4

Reversibles 1: G-P

Blower: 1 h.p. Orgoblo

Action-Current: 10 amp.

Orgelectra

GREAT: V-4, R-5, S-6

8 Geigenprinzipal 61

(Gedeckt-S)

Dulciana 61

4 Octave 61

(Gedeckt-S)

11 Mixture 122

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Wichita, Kansas

real issue.

"I think," he said, "that the real reason is that the Standard Brewing Company spends much more money with us than the West Side Evangelical Church."

The brewers' big horses are still on the prance.

"Oh, no, boys; Oh, no,

The turnpike free wherever you go.

..... Don't you see?

The brewers' big horses can't run over me."

Interesting News Shorts

The General Baptist Convention of Texas has announced a budget for 1954 of \$14,000,000. One half of this will go for the building of college and hospital buildings.

* * *

The Unitarians have recently held services to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the Spanish theologian, Servetus.

* * *

High school students in Memphis have organized a "teen agers for Christ" movement. At a recent revival conducted by the group 300 fellow students confessed their faith.

* * *

Inmates of a State Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina, three blocks from the Royland Heights Baptist Church, sent a gift of \$50 to assist the congregation in the purchasing of a new site. The money was received from a minstrel show by the prisoners.

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There will be many more of course. Any committee can stumble into the answers. The wise church will seek competent counsel to chart the course.

Write us, asking for a visit from William H. Leach, for many years editor of "Church Management." An evening spent with your official board will save you many mistakes through the coming months.

West Coast Representative
William S. Hockman

FOR 1954 ENGAGEMENTS WRITE



WILLIAM H. LEACH

Church Management, Inc.

1900 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland 15, Ohio

Well of Bethlehem

(From page 93)

not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." Bryan lost his political position because of his zeal for reform in government. Centuries before, John the Baptist lost his life because he spoke for reform in high places. Each saw the risks he took, and counted the task worthy of the risks.

The well of Bethlehem is a symbol of all the worth-while things in life which we have gained at the cost of danger of other men's lives. The well is also the symbol of salvation. To bring us water from that well Christ taught and prayed; Christ went through the agony in the garden of Gethsemane; Christ suffered the torture of a criminal's death; Christ died believing—and Christ rose to eternal life.

Shall we pour it out, untasted, this cup of salvation which Christ has brought to us at so great a price? No! We accept it and with it our right to risk all; that the water of life may be handed to those we love. "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

First Things First

(From page 87)

tween them with my respectful curses, and bring it to my house and I'll sign it."

In the Bible we are told that the love of money is the root of all evil. Those are hard words, but James M. Barrie in this one-act play, "The Will," convincingly proves how true they are. Philip and Emily started off as a deeply romantic couple, but in the intervening years, the corrosive love of money took its heavy toll, destroying all that was finest and best in them. Certainly this tragic story of Philip and Emily Ross substantiates what Jesus said so many long years ago, "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

BAR SERVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Racine, Wisconsin—The board of education here voted to deny the use of a public school on Sunday mornings to a Lutheran group for church services.

It rejected a request from the Rev. M. W. Albrecht, pastor of a newly-organized congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Action of the school commissioners was on the advice of a board member, Attorney Manny S. Brown, that use of the school by a church group would violate the state constitution.—RNS

THEY SAY — WHAT SAY THEY? LET THEM SAY

A COOLING OFF PERIOD

Editor, *Church Management*:

Thirty years ago I had my interest in the subject of Spiritualism aroused, and just as quickly cooled off by reading Sir Oliver Lodge's book, *Raymond*. I could not follow the trend when it spoke of spirits smoking cigars, and describing the hairs on a dog's tail.

However, this article has aroused my interest and I have ordered Sherwood Eddy's book as a beginner.

I think you are right when you say in your editorial that "it may be a dangerous field for the amateur but a compensating one to the serious, competent explorer."

I am sure at that age, and with sufficient background of experience, not to go "beserk" on any line of reasoning or go off the deep end for any "ism."

You will perhaps receive some criticism for this article, but I think it is stimulating for ones thinking along the line of immortality.

Robert A. Hunt,
Emporia, Kansas

SPIRIT MESSAGES

Editor, *Church Management*:

You have revealed both courage and wisdom in publishing the very excellent article, *The Beliefs of Modern Spiritualism*, by Madeline George. I know Arthur Ford. He has remarkable psychic power. Through sittings with high-type mediums, including Mr. Ford, I am convinced of the authenticity of messages from the other side.

You are also to be congratulated upon your splendid editorial on the same subject. I hope you will run other articles along the psychic lines, for herein is that which is of vital importance to the future of the Christian Church. Your magazine can be a tremendous power for good in awakening the churches to the central message of Christianity, that of personal immortality.

Paul Lambourne Higgins,
Chicago, Illinois

INDISPUTABLE PROOF

Editor, *Church Management*:

Your editorial regarding communication with the dead (so called) was read to me over the phone just now by a friend. I understand this magazine also contains an article concerning an
(Turn to page 103)

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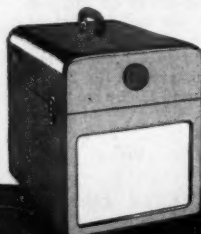
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The Church Wedding

(From page 89)

leave the motor going after a wedding, to be discovered a day or so later after considerable damage was done to the instrument.

The rules of the local church save any possible embarrassment to the pastor on the matter of divorce. While the Presbyterian Church has definite laws on the matter, the official rules of the local church serve to aid the minister.

The rules solve a problem with reference to professional rehearsers, frequently attached to stores which sell trousseaux. The simple fact is, a qualified minister knows more about weddings than any professional rehearser and he is in a position to observe social properties and to keep the marriage a religious rite. Many of the etiquette guides are written from the viewpoint of the Episcopal or Roman Catholic churches and do not always apply to situations in Presbyterian or other Protestant churches. That does not mean these guides have no value, if suggestions are adapted to another church's way of conducting weddings. It is necessary to arrange a wedding to fit the framework of the arrangement of the sanctuary, consistent with the best practices of the particular denomination. One fashionable wedding group, with the families and professional rehearser desiring to put on a Hollywood performance, actually suggested sawing through pews to create a center aisle in a church that did not have one!

A wedding rehearsal should help the bridal party to become relaxed and at ease. A professional rehearser feels she has to earn her fee and has been known to drill her proteges for two hours and then to leave out some important detail, such as parking provisions for the cars of the bridal party, or for seeing that the ushers do not forget to return for the mothers of the bride and groom at the conclusion of the ceremony. In the writer's church, it is suggested that a woman friend of the family be invited to assist the pastor in connection with the rehearsal and wedding. Sometimes another member of the staff, such as the pastor's secretary, may be the permanent assistant for such activities.

A detailed schedule is worked out for every wedding. A form has been drawn up to provide for the varying circumstances in different weddings. The form is filled out in an interview with the bride-to-be, with such changes as may be necessary, and then is typed in personalized form with copies for the minister and the rehearsal-wedding

(Turn to page 101)

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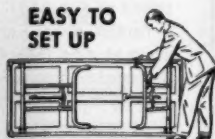
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Clock Timing the Wedding

FORM FOR WEDDING

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ENID, OKLAHOMA

NAMES _____ DATE OF WEDDING _____
(Single ring — Double ring)

REHEARSAL

(Pastor's assistant for rehearsal and wedding: _____)

CEREMONY TIME

(Have bride's father check police to reserve car space. See that everyone has transportation.)

Number of Girls _____; Maid and/or Matron-of-Honor _____; Best Man _____
Ushers _____; Candlelighters _____; Flower Girl _____; Ring Bearer _____
Groom's Family _____; Bride's Family _____

I — Time Table

- (One hour before ceremony time) _____ Pastor's assistant and ushers arrive.
- (One hour before ceremony time) _____ Bride's party arrives and goes to choir room to dress.
- (Thirty minutes before ceremony time) _____ Organist and soloist arrive.
- (Thirty minutes before ceremony time) _____ Groom and best man arrive, pastor's study.
- (Twenty minutes before ceremony time) _____ Organist and soloist go to places.
- (Fifteen minutes before ceremony time) _____ Organ music begins.
- (Five minutes before ceremony time) _____ Head usher checks on wedding party; (we take nothing for granted).
 - Minister, groom and best man.
 - Bride's party. If everyone ready, bring to foyer.

From (five minutes before ceremony time) _____ on, operate by people. If everyone is ready, have bride's party in foyer — no one else admitted to main floor of the sanctuary.

II — Processional

- Assistant head usher brings in groom's mother on right arm and seats her on east side, center aisle, second row. Groom's father already seated, unless he elects to walk in behind groom's mother.
- Head usher brings in bride's mother on his left arm and seats her on west side, center aisle, second row, leaving space for bride's father.
- When head usher returns to rear of sanctuary, (a) candlelighters will come down center aisle to light candles, starting from outside, working toward center, finishing with candles on Communion Table — **KEEPING TOGETHER**. Be seated front row next west wall; (b) since ushers/bridesmaids are used, they return down center aisle to rear of sanctuary.
- Solo _____ Soloist _____
- Wedding March
 - Minister enters, followed four paces by groom and best man, arm's length behind groom from northeast sanctuary door.
 - As minister reaches steps of chancel, ushers start, one pair. Three paces after them, start next pair. Take places east and west marked "U." (Or on east side, if girls all on one side.)
 - When all men in place, bridesmaids enter together/singly by natural step, four paces apart, and take place on east and west sides marked "Br.M." (Or on west side if men all on one side.)
 - Six paces later, maid-of-honor takes place marked "M"; west side.
 - Six paces later, matron-of-honor takes place marked "MH"; west side.
 - Eight paces later, start ring bearer.
 - Six paces later, start flower girl.
 - When maid-of-honor/matron-of-honor reach mothers' pews, start bride on father's right arm.
- Ceremony . . . Benediction . . . ("Lord's Prayer" — Malotte; optional)

III — Recessional

- Bride and groom.
- Flower girl; ring bearer.
- Best man accompanies maid/matron-of-honor down chancel steps. He goes out door through which he entered. She goes out center aisle alone. (They go out center aisle together when bride requests this procedure.)
- Usher and maid-of-honor.
- Ushers and bridesmaids — by pairs.
- Ushers and bridesmaids — by pairs.
- Minister dismisses congregation, which has remained seated; stood for ceremony.

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Incarnation

by Belle Chapman Morrill

Once more the Holy Birthday comes around,
Reminding us again
Of that great Miracle of Miracles—
God's holy love for men.
*O love overwhelming! O mighty design!
When God becomes human to make us divine.*

Now very God of very God comes down,
In very man to dwell,
That he might woo and win strayed humankind—
Our Lord, Immanuel.
*The Heavens no longer His love can confine,
For God becomes human to make us divine.*

I know not how God filled that human life
With matchless truth and grace;
I only know men saw the heart of God
Revealed in Jesus' face.
*See through the darkness the living Light shine,
As God becomes human to make us divine.*

No longer need men suffer, self-enchained,
No longer blindly roam,
For God comes down with saving love, to find
In human hearts a home.
*Let this be the carol from your heart and mine:
Not only the manger, the cross be our sign—
Our God becomes human to make us divine.*

The Church Wedding

(From page 98)

assistant. This form can be adapted to meet contours and arrangements of any type of church.

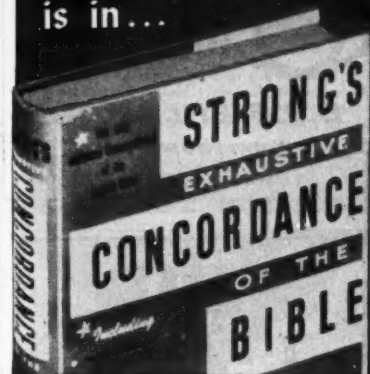
When rehearsal time arrives, nothing is done until every member of the wedding party is present in person or by proxy. The men are then asked to sit on one side of the church; the women on the other—to discourage distraction! The pastor goes through the instructions once, with care. He asks for questions, however minute. After questions are answered, there is one procession and one recession of the group, which is then dismissed.

No wedding uses every item in the form shown; but no situation arises that is not covered. There also is an emergency light signal on the organ which the minister uses to signal the organist if there is need to delay start of the wedding march.

A church wedding is a religious rite. The members of the church are intelligent and nearly always are cooperative when they understand the proper procedure. When families realize their pastor is qualified to direct correct weddings in a deeply spiritual setting, and to start a young couple off with a Christian viewpoint of marriage, they are grateful. In addition to the details noted in the conduct of a church wedding, the pastor should not overlook the conference period with every prospective bride and groom. This counseling can be one of the most valuable parts of his entire pastoral ministry.

All of our theological seminaries should offer more detailed guidance to students on how to conduct weddings; while discussion groups should be conducted in local churches to develop better understanding of every phase of marriage, not only in the establishment of Christian homes, but in the proper conduct of weddings in the church.

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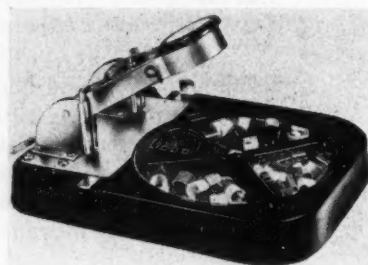


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This is the Luxwood Round Top Table for church and church school use. The tubular steel legs fold and can be had adjustable in height for kindergarten, etc. A locking device engages automatically when legs are fully extended. Thumb pressure on a steel lever releases legs to folded position. New Product No. 11531.

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CHURCH SCHOOL FURNITURE

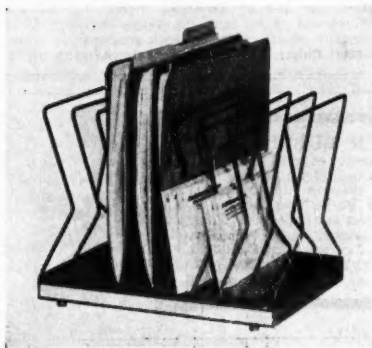
The display of a modern classroom (bottom illustration) contrasts sharply with the classroom of other times. This display was set up on the main floor of the Chicago Public Library in co-operation with the Brunswick-Balke-

Collender Company. The school furniture shown is from Brunswick's new line. As can be seen it is most adaptable for up-to-date church school use. For more detailed information write about New Product No. 11533.



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Illustrated is a new Barony tweed-textured plastic fabric for folding doors and partitions. This fabric offers the look and feel of expensive drapery cloths and fits requirements for soft, low-sheen finishes in churches and parish houses. The material is available in a choice of eight subtle tones. It is easily cleaned with soap and water. Called "Fabrillite," it is manufactured by the Foldoor Division, Holcomb & Hoke Mfg. Co. New Product No. 11534.



DESK ORGANIZER

Shown is the Mayer Manufacturing Company's Clear Vue Desk Organizer. Designed to hold heavy correspondence folders, catalogs, sermon folders, etc. Contains nine sections separated by wire separators, one inch apart, equip-

They Say . . .
(From page 97)
interview with Rev. Arthur Ford on this subject.

I have read that the distinguished Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, secretary of the World Council of Churches, is endorsing and upholding the findings of Dr. Sherwood Eddy as set forth in his book, *You Will Survive After Death*.

On the other hand, in an Easter radio sermon, Dr. William Ward Ayer declared that "God could never be found in a shabby seance room." Surely God is to be found wherever and whenever the humble and contrite heart turns to him. I often wonder why stumbling blocks are put in the path of those who would find relief from desperation if they might know—or even believe there might be a slight possibility—that their loved ones who meant life itself to them were still living. A number of otherwise useful years of living was lost to me when my only child was suddenly taken at three years of age. I had been reared in the Methodist religion and had spent my adult years studying Christian Science but these were meaningless to me when my little boy died.

Years later I heard Arthur Ford lecture in New York and it was he who brought me indisputable proof that my son—and every other mother's son—still lives. I know now, but I would like these copies of your magazine for some friends who "dare not" believe anything their own church does not tell them. And there are many, many ministers of God other than Dr. William Ward Ayer who say God is not to be found in the seance room. God bless the shabbiest of seance rooms, they have put a light in the path of those whose eyes were so blinded by tears of grief they could see no path at all.

Marjorie Ralston,
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Advertisers' Index

	Page		Page
A		McKay's Church Systems	82
Abingdon-Cokesbury Press	45, 77, 86, 101	Melerjohan-Wengler	34
Advertising Publications, Inc.	39	Messenger Corp.	62
Albion Vain Slate Co., Inc.	106	Meyer & Brother	77
American Optical Co.	53	Midwest Folding Products	88
American Seating Co.	94	Midwestern Graduate Bible School	82
American Sunday School Union	103	Ministers Life & Casualty Union	33
Anchor Post Products, Inc.	30	Mitchell Manufacturing Co.	98
Architectural Bronze & Aluminum Corp.	38	Monroe Co., The	37
Arrow Letter Service	85	Moore Co., E. R.	31
Artercraft Theatre Equipment Co.	66	Morrison Record Laboratories	102
Artvue Post Card Co.	92	N	
Ashtabula Sign Co.	61	National Bible Press	87
Austin Organs, Inc.	20	National Church Goods Supply Co.	104
B		National Church Supply Co.	70
Baldwin Piano Co.	61	National Council of Churches (Bureau of Church Building)	82
Beach Instrument Corp.	73	National Fund-Raising Services, Inc.	5
Bentley & Simon, Inc.	92	National Religious Press	59
Bernard-Smithline Co.	101	National Sound Service	94
Bethany Press	87	New Castle Products	35
Biehl, B. F.	102	Nixalite Company of America	68
British Information Services	19	Norcor Manufacturing Co.	29
C		North American Electric Lamp Co.	43
Camden Artercraft Co.	89	North American Van Lines	24
Cathedral Craftsmen	62	North Branch Chair Co.	82
Cathedral Envelope Co.	102	Novelty Lighting Corp.	57
Cathedral Films, Inc.	97	O	
Central School of Religion	82	Ossit Church Furniture Co.	57
Church Management, Inc.	43, 92, 96, 104	Overly Manufacturing Co.	Second Cover
Church Publicity Service	99	P	
Church World Press, Inc.	57	Page Fence Association	36
Clarín Manufacturing Co.	93	Paramount Book & Bible House	84
Clark Co., Inc., W. L.	64	Payne Studios, George L.	103
Collegiate Cap & Gown Co.	77	Payne-Spiers Studios, Inc.	104
Connonata	65	Pettit & Fritsen	74
Cook Publishing Co., David C.	89	Philadelphia Carpet Co.	93
Cotrell & Leonard, Inc.	42	Pick Co., Inc., Albert	90
Cox Sons & Vining, Inc.	105	Pike Stained Glass Studios	82
Cushing Organ Co.	89	Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studio	42
Cuthbertson, Inc., J. Theodore	64	Pittsburgh Typewriter & Supply Co.	92
D		Presbyterian Ministers' Fund	72
Damp-Phaser, Inc.	67	Prince George Hotel	102
DeLong Seating Co.	96	Pro-Del Industries, Inc.	52
DeMoulin Brothers & Co.	103, 104	Protectograph Corp.	98
Dick Co., A. B.	41	Pulpit Digest	105
Dimco-Gray Co.	66	R	
Dry Hotels	105	Rauland-Borg Corp.	50
E		Redington & Co., J. P.	67, 82, 103
Eastman Kodak Co.	17	Religious Book Club	75
Ecclesiastical Art Press	103	Revell Co., Fleming H.	83
Endicott Church Furniture	46	Russell Church Studios	92
Eshelman, Cheston L.	36	S	
Estey Organ Corp.	32	Sams & Sons, L. I.	Third Cover
Exposition Press, Inc.	77	Sandon Stained Glass Studio	43
F		Sangamon Mills	104
Family Films, Inc.	48	Schultz Organ Co.	57
G		Schulmerich Carillons, Inc.	99
Gelsler, Inc., R.	20, 52	Scribner's Sons, Charles	79
Gestetner Duplicator Corp.	27	Shwayder Brothers, Inc.	25
Goodenough & Woglom Co.	85	Society for Visual Education, Inc.	55
H		Spalding Publishers	56, 71
Harper & Brothers	80	Standard Publishing Co.	42
Har-Tee, Inc.	34	Stromberg-Carlson Co.	24
Higley Press, The	64	Sudbury Brass Goods Co.	104
Hillgreen, Lane & Co.	95	Swedenborg Foundation	84
Hillyard Chemical Co.	91	Sylvania Electric Products, Inc.	74
Holcomb & Hoke Manufacturing Co.	6	T	
Holmberg Organ Co.	62	Tabernacle Publishing Co.	26
Hope Publishing Co.	97	Triumphant Art Publishers	88
Humes & Berg Manufacturing Co.	102	U	
Huntington Seating Co.	77	United States Bronze Sign Co.	39
I		Upper Room	60
International Bronze Tablet Co., Inc.	71	V	
Ireland Needlecraft	84	Valley City Manufacturing Co.	71
J		Verdin Co., The I. T.	70
Jackson Products Co.	69	Victor Animatograph Corp.	47
Judson Press, The	38, 85	Viewlex, Inc.	21
K		Vogel-Peterson Co.	88
Keck Stained Glass Studio	82	W	
Ketchum, Inc.	23	Ward Co., The C. E.	24
Krogmann, John	31	Warner Press	31, 53
L		Wells Organizations	Back Cover
Lamb Studios, The J. & R.	61	Westminster Press	31, 65, 81, 82
Lawson Associates, Inc.	3, 51	Whittemore Associates, Inc.	52, 58
Lindner, Louis J.	24	Wicks Organ Co.	52
Little Giant Manufacturing Co.	103	Wilde Co., W. A.	81
M		Willis Co., Paul A.	52
MacCalla & Co., Inc.	105	Winona Church Sign Co.	58
Malz, C. M.	104	Winterich's	63
Manitowoc Church Furniture Co.	64	Winters Specialty Co., H. E.	104
Master Addresser Co.	71	Wood Conversion Co.	95
Mathers, F. W.	104	Woolverton Printing Co.	70
McFadden Lighting Co.	103	Wright Manufacturing Co.	49

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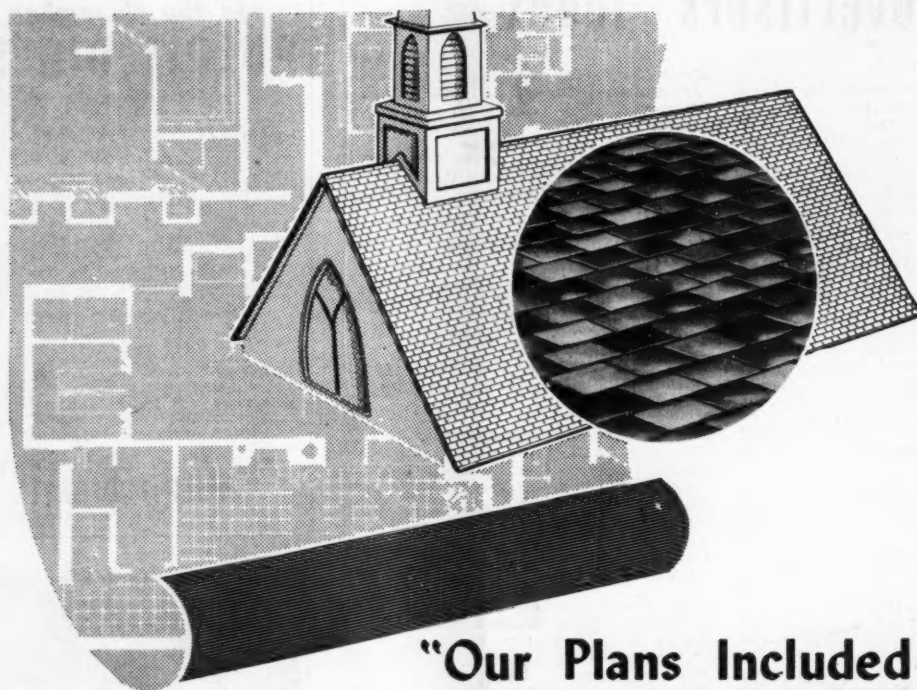
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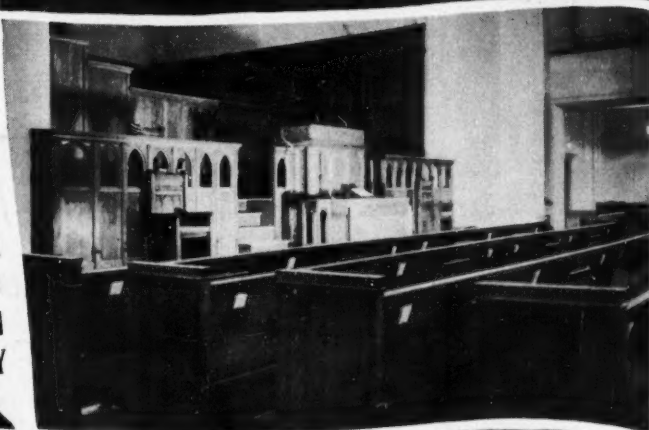
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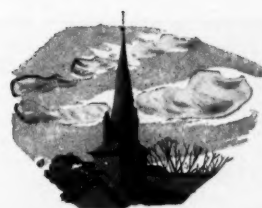
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